

THE TIMES



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FRIDAY 30p FRIDAY

THE KETCHUP CURE
Can cooked tomatoes beat cancer? page 7

SEX AND SHOPPING
by Cardinal Hume page 15

IN THE FREE GLOSSY MAGAZINE

FRIDAY 30p FRIDAY

Five nuclear tests in Baluchistan desert trigger instant economic sanctions

Pakistan draws level in arms race

By ZAHID HUSSAIN, CHRISTOPHER THOMAS AND BRONWEN MADDOX

PAKISTAN "settled the score" with India by exploding five nuclear devices yesterday, ratcheting up the arms race between two of the world's most bitter enemies and proclaiming itself the first Islamic nuclear power.

The underground tests in the Baluchistan desert were conducted in defiance of world leaders who had begged Pakistan not to respond to similar tests in India earlier this month — and brought immediate reprisals in the form of economic sanctions that could devastate a country already on the verge of bankruptcy.

President Clinton had telephoned the Pakistani Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, hours before the explosions — his fifth call this month — and spent 25 minutes imploring him not to go ahead with the ill-fated tests. But he was rebuffed by Mr Sharif, who said that his country had no choice after the international community's "failure" to punish India for its tests.

Mr Clinton immediately announced wide-ranging economic sanctions on Pakistan, whose actions he deplored. "I cannot believe we are about to

start the 21st century by having the Indian sub-continent repeat the worst mistakes of the 20th," he said. "By failing to exercise restraint and responding to the Indian tests, Pakistan lost a truly priceless opportunity to improve its political standing in the eyes of the world."

Mr Clinton and President Yeltsin later agreed to work together to try to prevent a nuclear arms race in South Asia. They regarded the nuclear competition between India as "a serious threat not only to regional security but to the non-proliferation regime and world stability."

India, delighted that it no longer stands alone in facing world condemnation for carrying out nuclear tests, said that it had been vindicated by Pakistan's action.

Mr Sharif, defiant in the face of sanctions that are likely to hit his country much harder than its neighbour, maintained that the increasing nuclear threat from India had left it no option but to respond in kind. "Today we have settled the score by detonating five nuclear devices of our own," he said in a nationwide



An Islamabad taxi driver holding a special edition of the local paper announcing that Pakistan has become "the first Islamic nuclear power"

television address. "We paid them back."

Pakistan was prepared to make any sacrifice to defend its sovereignty and national security. "We are ready to face economic sanctions, but we will not surrender our national interests. I'm not a leader of a coward nation."

Mr Sharif, a multimillionaire businessman, said that everybody would have to make sacrifices: "I give you this assurance: if the nation will take only one meal a day, then my children will take only one meal a day."

Mr Sharif's Government

had been under strong public pressure to conduct the tests, with a recent opinion poll showing that 90 per cent of Pakistanis favoured an immediate response to the Indian explosions. Yesterday crowds celebrated with gunfire, while Muslim hardliners cheered the advent of the first "Islamic nuclear bomb".

But very few Pakistanis are aware of the price the nation will have to pay, and Mr Sharif's promises of personal sacrifice showed that he was worried about the political fallout of further economic hardship once the jubilation

about the tests subsides. And while he insisted that Pakistan could not compromise "in the face of aggression", he said that he was ready to discuss with Indian leaders all outstanding issues, including a non-aggression pact.

In India, too, fear of an arms race is rapidly overtaking the earlier euphoria over its demonstration of nuclear power and there was pandemonium among opposition MPs when the Pakistani tests were announced in Parliament.

Pakistani officials have not disclosed anything about the kind of devices that were

tested, and one said: "The only thing we can say is that they were not inferior to that tested in India." A middle-range Gauss missile with a range of more than 900 miles was successfully flight-tested last month and yesterday Pakistan declared that it was already being capped with nuclear warheads "with a view to give a befitting reply to any misadventure by the enemy".

On Wednesday, security was stepped up at nuclear sites and the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at 1am yesterday to

receive a warning that Pakistan would retaliate with massive force if it were attacked. The ministry said that it had intelligence reports that India intended to launch strikes on the nuclear sites at dawn. India said that it was an absurd accusation.

Mr Clinton made his final telephone call to Mr Sharif after satellite spy pictures showed concrete being poured down an underground shaft, suggesting that an explosive device was being sealed.

Nuclear tests, pages 16, 17
Leading article, page 25

Princess's families announce separate services

By DANIEL MCGORRY

THE two families of Diana, Princess of Wales, have decided to commemorate the first anniversary of her death by holding separate memorial services in private at Balmoral and her family's ancestral home at Althorp.

The Royal Family took the decision to remain out of the public eye after asking her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, how they wanted to mark the anniversary. They and Prince Charles will join the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at a small prayer service at Crathie Church where they went just hours after learning of the Princess's death on August 31.

Her brother, Earl Spencer, her two sisters and their families will at the same time hold a private service on the banks of the lake at Althorp where they can look across at the island where she is buried.

Before the anniversary it is expected that the two princes will visit Althorp to see their mother's unmarked grave.

In announcing their different plans yesterday both Buckingham Palace and the Spencer family emphasised that there was no rift between them as to how to mark the anniversary. However, Earl Spencer was not invited to join his nephews at the Balmoral service and was taken by surprise at the Palace's decision yesterday to reveal its plans.

Tony and Cherie Blair, who will be staying with the Queen at Balmoral that weekend, will join the Royal Family at the church.

A Palace spokesman said: "The Royal Family and the Spencers have been in touch and each wishes to mark the anniversary privately and in

Continued on page 2, col 6

- TV & RADIO 54, 55
- WEATHER 28
- CROSSWORDS 28, 56
- LETTERS 25
- OBITUARIES 27
- MATTHEW PARRIS 24
- ARTS 38-41
- CHESS & BRIDGE 48
- COURT & SOCIAL 26
- SPORT 48-54, 56
- STYLE 22
- EDUCATION 47

Blair and PoWs to have talks

Tony Blair is to hold talks with former Japanese POWs to smooth the dispute that has dogged the visit to Britain of Emperor Akihito. The Emperor and the Empress yesterday visited Kew Gardens, lunched at No 10 and gave a banquet at the V & A. Page 11

AA may reform

The Automobile Association is to consider reform of its constitution in response to protests from members who accused its executive of behaving like a "self-perpetuating oligarchy". Page 29

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Tough Yeltsin talks rouble out of crisis

By ROBIN LODGE, MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN won his government some vital breathing space yesterday, insisting that Russia would weather its latest economic crisis and reiterating that there was no question of devaluing the beleaguered rouble.

Mr Yeltsin found a suitable scapegoat for the crisis and publicly dismissed the top official of the last state-owned oil company, Rosneft, following the failure of a share auction last week — not a single bidder came forward for the 75 per cent stake of Rosneft, valued at \$2.1 billion (£1.3 billion). Yuri Bessalov, chief executive of Rosneft, was the man selected to take the blame.

Mr Yeltsin, who met his top government economists yesterday, was dismissive about fears that the rouble would collapse. He said: "The Central Bank and Finance Ministry have sufficient reserves to

control the situation." There was no question, he said, of devaluation, echoing the words of Sergei Kiriyenko, his Prime Minister, the previous day. The President pledged to take action against tax evaders, saying that he would issue a decree to allow the seizure of defaulters' property and assets.

The failure of the government to collect tax revenues has left a gaping deficit in the Russian budget and caused widespread alarm among investors. In the short term, Mr Yeltsin's words, coupled with the tripling of interest rates to 150 per cent on Wednesday, appeared to have had their desired effect. The rouble strengthened while Russian stocks made up most of Wednesday's losses.

Tax purge, page 19
Leading article, page 25
Waiting for IMF, page 29



Planet found in deepest space

Astronomers have taken the first picture of a planet outside our own solar system. The image was hailed as one of the most exciting taken by the Hubble Space Telescope.

The planet, two or three times the size of Jupiter, is ploughing a lonely furrow through space 450 light years away. It is in the constellation of Taurus and was apparently expelled by the binary stars around which it once orbited. Page 5

Stop harrowing aid appeals, says Short

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CLARE SHORT yesterday gave a warning of compassion fatigue and urged international aid groups to end "unbearable" humanitarian appeals which made people "flinch and turn away".

Speaking at a London conference the International Development Secretary called on aid agencies to use positive advertising to attract funds for longer-term development.

But Peter Walker, director of disaster for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, hit back with a robust defence of humanitarian aid work.

"It is a little bit like blaming 999 crews because we have a lot of road accidents," he said and described Ms Short's speech as "good analysis, wrong conclusion".

Alberto Navarro, the director of the European Community Humanitarian Office, said that humanitarians were not

responsible for conflicts. Development and humanitarianism were two sides of the same coin.

Ms Short was embroiled in controversy last August when she infuriated the people of Montserrat by suggesting that their demands for aid after a volcano eruption were unreasonable. "They will be demanding golden elephants next," she said at the time.

Yesterday she told the Dispatches from Disaster Zones conference that the crisis in Sudan where 350,000 people were starving would spark a huge humanitarian appeal. But the civil war had been caused by domestic political failures, not an "act of God".

She said that there had been an increase in humanitarian aid and a reduction in development aid. "If it is all humanitarian we are just going round in an endless cycle."



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Male chimps work while females watch TV

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH



FEMALE chimpanzees are more liable to become television addicts than their mates. Confronted with the small screen, males will continue to search for food or wander around while the females are only too anxious to settle down and gawp.

In a two-month study at Edinburgh Zoo a group of 12 chimps were shown one of six 15-minute videos every day at the same time each morning. Within a week the four

and eagerly settled down. But the males showed little interest, preferring to wander round their enclosure or scratch about the termite mound.

However, after weeks of watching the same six videos even the female tele-addicts in the group began to get bored.

The videos, compiled from clips of David Attenborough documentaries on chimpanzees, covered eating, playing, grooming, aggressive behaviour, and mating.

The juveniles enjoyed the

had seen on the screen. But the aggressive sequences were not imitated.

Dr Jim Anderson, the supervising psychologist, said that he had no idea why there was such a marked difference between the males and females, although in the wild females are more sedentary.

He said: "They would squat down and relax and stare at what was going on whereas the four males and four juveniles would watch for a few minutes, then get on with whatever they were doing."

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Lover jailed for 'dumping' girlfriend

Damian Whitworth reports on how jealousy pushed one man — or rather, his beloved — over the edge

WHEN Liam Devine's romantic date was constantly interrupted by his girlfriend taking mobile phone calls from a suspected old flame, he flew into a jealous rage and decided to chuck her. But he did so in spectacularly literal fashion — dumping her over a wall into the Thames.

Fortunately, the tide was out and she alighted on the muddy river bed. He landed in jail for 16 weeks. Devine, 24, a BT information technology expert, apparently tried to jump in after her to pull her out. Bow Street magistrates were told. He wept in the dock yesterday after admitting causing actual bodily harm to Siobhan Kilmurray. Miss Kilmurray escaped with minor cuts and bruises after plunging 30ft and sticking fast, waist-deep and face-down, in the sludge.

Kimberley Aiken, for the defence, told the Central London court: "It was a bizarre act which ended their date in such a spectacular fashion after an atmosphere of soft lights and romantic setting on a river boat."

Jack Renwick, for the prosecution, said the couple had been to a West End show then for a meal, during which they drank wine and Irish coffees before going on to the Queen Mary floating boat bar and restaurant on the Embankment, where they continued drinking. They started rowing over a string of calls that Miss Kilmurray received during the evening, which Devine believed were from an old boyfriend. Miss Kilmurray stormed off the boat but was followed along the Embankment by Devine. Mr Renwick said, "Suddenly he took hold of her, bent her over the Embankment wall and pinned her against it. She began screaming and he picked her up by the legs and threw her over the wall."

River police were initially unable to pull Miss Kilmurray out of the mud because she was stuck so deep, and had to resort to tying a rope around her and attaching it to a power-boat to pull her free. "She was somewhat hysterical and was taken to St Thomas' Hospital," said Mr Renwick. "Her injuries were not serious, but clearly she suffered severe shock."

The court was told that Miss Kilmurray, who is in her early twenties and is a personnel officer with the Bank of Switzerland, had forgiven Devine and their relationship was still "on-going". However, they had not actually seen each other since the incident in January. Miss Aiken said that Devine had not tried to make any excuses, and still could not come up with any reasons to justify his actions. She said that Devine, of Upper Norwood, southeast London, had been angered by the phone calls. "It was the straw that broke the camel's back and sparked the fuse. It is right to say that she is a very attractive young lady and Mr Devine isn't the only gentleman that seeks her affection."

Devine immediately regretted what he had done and had to be stopped from jumping into the river himself to try to rescue his girlfriend. "Clearly, if he had managed to get over the wall, he would have been in grave danger himself. When the police arrived, he immediately said, 'It's all my fault. It's all my fault.'"

Hospital hired girl, 15, to work heart monitors

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

A SCHOOLGIRL who has been earning pocket money by operating heart monitoring machines attached to critically ill patients was dismissed yesterday. The 15-year-old, the daughter of a consultant's secretary, had been working three-hour shifts at weekends in the cardiology department at Perth Royal Infirmary where her duties included attaching electronic terminals to patients' chests and taking the readings to doctors. She was dismissed by Perth and Kinross NHS Trust after the health union Unison expressed alarm and called on the Scottish Office for an investigation. William Gray, director of Perth and Kinross NHS trust, initially defended the hospital's decision to employ the girl. "The duties involved would be an inappropriate use of skilled nursing or medical staff, and the employment of someone else to do this work means that doctors and nurses are freed to undertake more appropriate clinical duties," he said. "The individual concerned has received full training to carry out the job, which can be learnt in a few hours." But shortly afterwards the girl was dismissed by the director of personnel, Bob Inneside. Yesterday Dick Matchett, regional officer of Unison, said: "People engaged in that sort of work usually require two or three years' training. It is alarming that this girl appears to have been treating patients with a heart condition."

In a statement, a spokeswoman for the trust said: "The duties undertaken did not involve any interpretation of the data nor did it have any involvement with confidential patient records. The individual had received full training to carry out the job which can be learnt in a few hours and worked in a supervised environment. "While the trust would reiterate the confidence expressed by senior clinical staff in the person who had undertaken this duty and who was considered capable of fulfilling the required tasks, the sensitivities associated with this practice are recognised. As such it has been decided that such duties should no longer be undertaken by individuals in this age bracket." The Scottish Office said the case did not breach employment requirements for schoolchildren, but added: "We cannot condone the involvement of such a young person in patient-related duties. We are glad to see that the trust has reaffirmed that such duties will not be undertaken in this way in the future." To carry out an ECG, an operator may have to shave some hair from the patient's chest to obtain a secure attachment for the electronic terminals. Other than that all that is required is the knowledge of how to switch on the machine and tear off the recording from it once the reading is finished. Although they would face no physical risk, patients would be likely to be unhappy about being handled in a rather intimate way by a very young person without medical training.



Sting with the trophy for most performed work for The Police's Every Breath You Take

Sir Elton wins double honour for Diana song

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

SIR Elton John was honoured by the music industry yesterday for his tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales. He received two trophies at the Ivor Novello Awards for *Candle In The Wind 1997*, the biggest-selling single of all time. Sir Elton told guests at the ceremony in London: "This, of course, is a bittersweet award to get. I wish the record never had to be made." Referring to the attack on the Oasis star Noel Gallagher on the record, he added: "And I'm sure Oasis feel like that too." Sir Elton, who recently split with his manager, John Reid, said: "If someone had said to me at this time last year that Gianni (Versace) would be dead, Princess Diana would be dead, Linda McCartney, Tammy Wynette and Jeff Buckley, and I wouldn't have a manager, I'd say you're mad." The Silver Ivor was presented for sales of the single and a special Silver Novello, the first ever awarded, was presented for the powerful message of the song. Paul Burrell, the Princess's butler, made the presentation. Sir Elton said that he was grateful to the memorial fund set up in the Princess's name for allowing a percentage of the royalties from *Candle In The Wind*, so far amounting to £83 million, to go to the Elton John AIDS Foundation. The pop band Radiohead won the Best Contemporary Song prize for *Karma Police* and their hit single *Paranoid Android* was voted the Best Song Musically

and Lyrically. *Picture of You*, co-written for the film *Bean* by Boyzone's Roman Keating, was awarded Best Original Song for a Film or Broadcast. *Best Original Music for a Broadcast* was for TV's *Rebecca*. Other winners included the film *Romeo and Juliet*, for the Best Original Film Score. Olive's *You're Not Alone* was voted Best Dance Music. Sharleen Spiteri and John McEithon of Scottish band Texas were commended for the Best Song Collection. Morrissey, former lead singer with The Smiths and now a solo performer, was presented with the Outstanding Contribution to British Music award. The International Achievement award was won by Enya, Nicky Ryan and Roma Ryan. *I'll Be Missing You* (Every Breath You Take), Puff Daddy's version of The Police's *Every Breath You Take*, won the Most Performed Work prize. Richard Ascroft of Verve was Songwriter of the Year. He told the crowd: "Bonkers, bonkers. When you lose your cat and it appears on Channel 5 news you know you're doing something right or something's going very wrong at the same time." He said he had been banned from music in the third year at school because he could not play *Chopsticks* on the glockenspiel. "Maybe that says something about the state of our support for young people who are interested in music in this country."

Police officer's death halts biggest cycle race

By Joanna Bale

BRITAIN'S biggest cycle race of the year was halted yesterday when a police motorcycle officer was killed after a collision with a car. The West Mercia officer was flagging down oncoming traffic on stage five of the 900-mile Prutour as the cyclists approached Malvern, Worcestershire, at 11.20am. He was named as PC David Hopkins, 41, who was married with a 15-month-old son and three teenage children from a previous marriage. The car was driven by Stephen Pomeroy, 22, of Warndon, Worcester. David Wilesmith, an engineer, was among a dozen spectators who witnessed the accident which blocked the A449 Malvern to Worcester road near Powick for three hours. He said: "The motorcycle was trying to move traffic to the side so the bikes would have a clear passage. The cyclists were only about two minutes behind him, a young man on his own in a blue car was coming the other way. "You could see the policeman gesturing for the cars to pull into the near side and the only thing I can think is that the driver couldn't interpret the signal. The motorcycle hit the passenger door and the officer fell off the bike into the car. They were so close, he couldn't avoid it." There were about a dozen people there watching. You

could see it was bad because they wouldn't move him off the road for half an hour. The cyclists were all stopped before they reached us and the emergency services were on the scene in no time. The young driver was just absolutely stunned." The 129-mile stage from Birmingham to Cardiff was abandoned, disappointing hundreds of spectators who lined the route. A spokesman for West Mercia police said escort bikes were fitted with a sign saying "Stop, cycle race" and that PC Hopkins had recently escorted the Princess Royal on a private visit to Shrewsbury. He added: "We are very shocked and saddened to

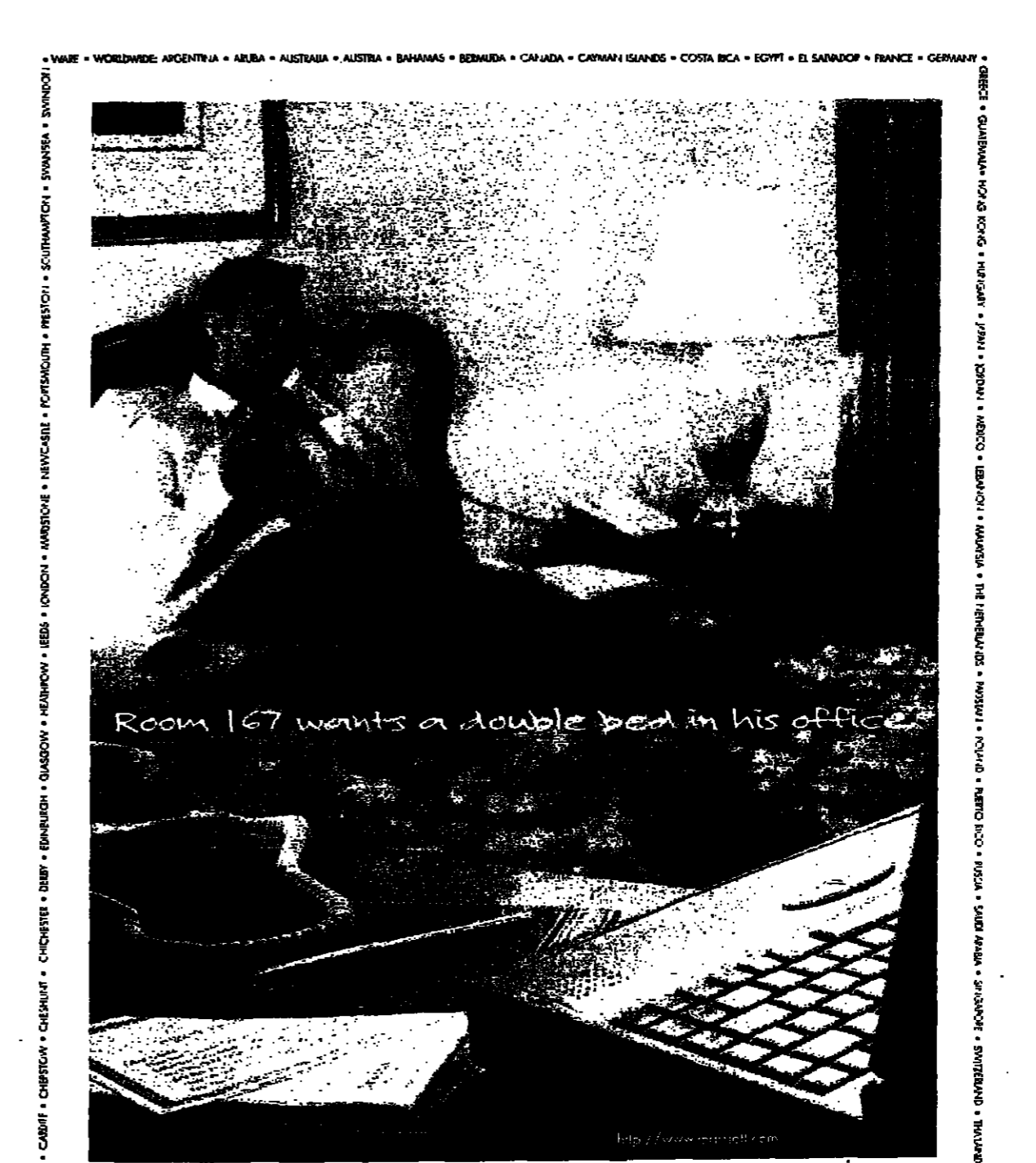


PC Hopkins: qualified to escort cycle racers

Rugby star cleared over brawl in nightclub

By Simon de Bruxelles

NEIL JENKINS, the Wales and British Lions rugby player, was yesterday cleared of brawling in a nightclub. The sportsman said after his acquittal: "The trial has been a big strain and I want to get on with my life now. I'm looking forward to having a nice game of golf." A judge directed the jury at Swansea Crown Court to acquit Mr Jenkins, 26, after Dale McIntosh, 28, his Pontypridd team mate, admitted causing grievous bodily harm to a doorman, a charge that he had previously denied. Patrick Griffiths, for the prosecution, said the Crown would not continue with the case against Mr Jenkins or McIntosh's brother Shane, 29. He said that prosecution witnesses had given honest recollections of the violence at the Icon nightclub in Swansea in February last year but that there were inconsistencies in their stories. The judge, Michael Burr, directed the jury formally to acquit Mr Jenkins and Shane McIntosh of violent disorder and assault on two doorman. Mr Jenkins, from Pontypridd, has scored 594 points for Wales, making him the fourth highest-scoring international in the world. Dale McIntosh, of Pontypridd, was released on unconditional bail to await sentence.



Room 167 wants a double bed in his office


Accused chaplain 'was very popular'

By Helen Johnstone

AN ARMY chaplain accused of indecent assault was a "soldier's soldier" with an "earthy" sense of humour but was very popular, a court martial was told yesterday. Captain Richard Landall enjoyed bawdy jokes with his colleagues, who never took offence, it was said. Captain Joseph Strachan, who served with Captain Landall, 41, in Bosnia, said he was the most effective military padre he had known in 24 years in the Army.

familiar with the troops without being too familiar. Giving evidence for the defence at the court martial at Aldershot, Captain Strachan said: "I have never met anyone who cares so much about ordinary soldiers, who relates to them, coming from a very similar background." Captain Strachan said Captain Landall was a direct preacher whose sermons he remembered two years later. Describing his earthy sense of humour, he said the padre once asked him if he had ever taken photographs of his wife.

He added that he had never known anyone who had taken offence at the chaplain's sense of humour. The court martial was also told that the woman who has accused the padre of indecent assault, and who cannot be identified for legal reasons, was a noisy neighbour who hosted parties which had often ended up in fights. A neighbour who lived opposite the woman and her husband in Celle, Germany, said they were always having parties which more often than not ended up in violence. He said he once saw the

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THE TIMES

First sign of a plan outside solar system

ASTRONOMERS have discovered the first sign of a plan outside our solar system. The discovery, made by a team of astronomers from the University of Warwick, suggests that there may be other planets in the habitable zone of other stars. The habitable zone is the area around a star where liquid water could exist on a planet's surface. The discovery was made using the Hubble Space Telescope. The team found a planet that is 125 light years away from Earth. The planet is 1.2 times the size of Earth and has a similar composition to our own planet. The discovery is significant because it is the first time that a planet has been found in the habitable zone of another star. This suggests that there may be other planets in the habitable zone of other stars. The discovery was made using the Hubble Space Telescope. The team found a planet that is 125 light years away from Earth. The planet is 1.2 times the size of Earth and has a similar composition to our own planet. The discovery is significant because it is the first time that a planet has been found in the habitable zone of another star. This suggests that there may be other planets in the habitable zone of other stars.

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Number of trainee GPs highest for 6 years

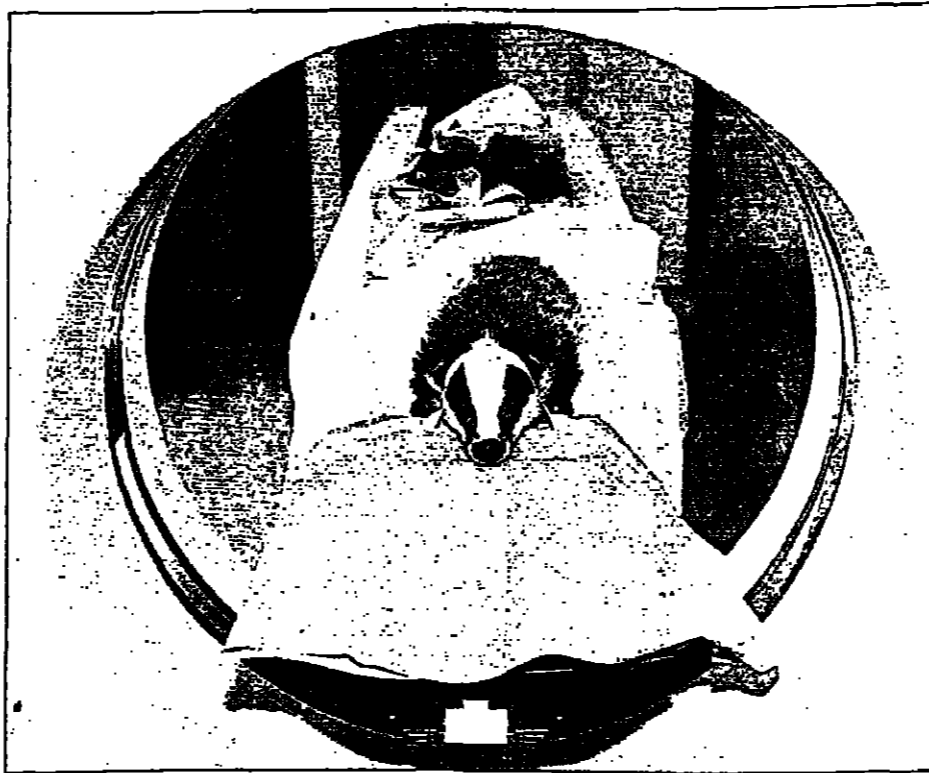
By IAN MURRAY

THE growing number of women studying medicine has led to the first rise in the number of trainee GPs for six years, according to official figures released yesterday.

While the overall number of family doctors fell by 21 per cent between 1987 and 1997, the figures for October last year show that the number of women among them grew by 4 per cent. Over half of all GP trainees are now female.

The influx of women means that the total number of GP trainees is 2.9 per cent up on the previous year and the number of fully qualified GPs has risen by 0.9 per cent. Women now account for 32 per cent of all family doctors, compared with 23 per cent in 1987.

But an increase in part-timers masks a fall in full-time GPs, according to Simon Fradd, vice-chairman of the British Medical Association's negotiating committee. "In reality there are between 2.5 per cent and 5 per cent fewer GPs and they are being asked to do more and more."



This badger cub seen undergoing a brain scan at St Anthony's Hospital in Cheam, Surrey, is believed to be the first animal to have had an operation to remove fluid from its brain (Michael Hornsby writes). A consultant paediatric neurologist operated on the young female, nicknamed CT after its computerised tomography scan. Phillip Cook, the hospital's marketing manager, said: "She was the first non-human

Badger has surgery on its brain

patient we have ever accepted. As we had some spare time in the X-ray room, we offered our services free of charge, as did the neurosurgeon." A man out walking found the badger, then ten weeks old, asleep in

woods near Dorking, and took it to Wildlife Aid, an animal rescue centre at Leatherhead, where staff noticed its swollen head. Paula Charlton, a centre volunteer, said yesterday: "She would not have lasted long. One of our sponsors suggested a CT brain scan, and everybody at St Anthony's was wonderful. The nurses were going goo-goo over her. We hope she will be fit enough to go back to the wild by October."

Keep health insurance simple, says watchdog

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MEDICAL insurers were given a warning yesterday to simplify their products or face regulation.

An Office of Fair Trading report said that policies were too complicated for most consumers to understand and urged the industry to draw up a code of practice to enable customers to compare more easily policies on offer. At present the sale of medical insurance is unregulated.

If insurers fail to respond to the OFT recommendations by September 30, the OFT will call for stronger regulation and bring health insurance under the umbrella of the City's new super-watchdog, the Financial Services Authority. This would mean medical insurance being sold in the same way as pensions and investments, where agents must ensure that information given is clear and the product sold is suitable.

The Association of British Insurers already has a code of practice but the OFT report, published yesterday, said this could be made more stringent so that customers were clear which medical conditions were covered.

Why did the OFT investigate health insurance?
The OFT was concerned that the small print in policies was too complicated and prevented consumers from comparing different products. Customers had also complained that insurance premiums had been rising well above the rate of inflation. The OFT was concerned that neither the product nor the selling of health insurance, worth £2 billion in total, was regulated.

What does the OFT want health insurers to change?
It is concerned about three areas. First, it says consumers need more information about the common policy of excluding from insurance cover pre-existing medical conditions, which is known as "moratorium underwriting".

Second, it wants insurers to develop "benchmarks" that set out what a standard policy does and does not cover, so that people can compare like with like. For example, many policies do not cover treatment at an outpatient centre, and some will not pay the bills for alternative treatments such as osteopathy.

Third, it believes customers should be given an indication

of how their premiums will increase with age before they sign up for the policy. Premiums are low for younger people but rise steeply at age 65 or if a claim is made.

Will the excluding of pre-existing medical conditions be banned in future?
The OFT's first report did call for a ban on these exclusions. Now it says they may be acceptable provided there is fuller information given to customers before they buy about what the policy covers.

How do I avoid a policy with an exclusion clause?
There are currently two ways to buy health insurance. Full underwriting means that you give details of your medical history and may be given a medical examination before you are granted cover. You are told of any conditions under which your insurance will not pay out. Individual insurers decide whether to cover you for pre-existing conditions but you are likely to pay a higher premium for the privilege.

Alternatively, some insurers do not ask for any medical information but will not cover any pre-existing medical conditions you may have had in the five years before the start of the policy.

The two biggest insurers Bupa and PPP, which together control 60 per cent of the market, dislike moratorium underwriting and have never offered it on their standard individual products. The newer entrants, Prime Health, Norwich Union and Royal & SunAlliance, offer their customers the choice.

How have the insurers responded to the OFT report?
The Association of British Insurers, the trade body, said that some of the conclusions appeared at first sight to be "unworkable and unnecessary". It welcomed the change of view on exclusions but said it still had reservations about benchmarking.

Is this report good news for consumers?
Yes, because insurers have now been given notice to make products more customer-friendly, or face the same stringent regulations that governs the sale of pensions and unit trusts. The industry is so keen to avoid regulation that it is likely to be spurred into putting its house in order.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 29 1998

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Harman welcomes fall in claimants

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

THE number of single parents on Income Support has fallen below a million for the first time in five years.

The decrease from 1,022,000 in November 1996 to 982,000 a year later reflects a fall in unemployment and growth in jobs available, improved security in the benefits system and demographic changes.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, said the Government's national childcare strategy and its New Deal for lone parents would provide further help to single mothers who wanted to go back to work.

"Getting a job means women and their children are better off and it means a falling bill for the taxpayer. It also means fewer children being brought up in households where no one works."

The New Deal for lone parents, piloted in eight areas from July last year, was extended nationally in April. The programme involves providing claimants with a personal adviser to help them to find work and childcare, and to work out if they are entitled to in-work benefits. The Tories are demanding a review of the programme after a report that the pilot projects had helped only 800 single parents to come off Income Support.

Public prefers Labour to the Tory sceptics

William Hague's tougher line on Europe has not won support in the polls, writes

Jill Sherman

LABOUR'S policy on Europe has far more public support than the Tories' Eurosceptic stance, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

Labour also commands much wider public backing than the Tories on all other policy issues, apart from defence, and has soared ahead on Northern Ireland at the end of its first year in Government.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that the position of the two parties on Europe has changed dramatically since April 1997, during the general election campaign.

Then the Tories were regarded as having the best policy on Europe by 39 per cent of those believing the issue important, with Labour on 19 per cent.

But William Hague's harder line on the European single currency and the divisions it has created does not seem to have gone down well, while Tony Blair's decision to back economic monetary union in principle has won wide acceptance.

The poll shows that support for the Tories' policy on Europe has dropped to 26 per cent, while backing for Labour has jumped to 43 per cent among those who say their voting intentions will be influenced by it. The change is in line with recent polls suggesting that the public is growing less Eurosceptic.

Europe is still a much more important issue among Tory supporters than Labour supporters. Some 36 per cent of Tories consider it a key issue, against 26 per cent for Labour and also the general public.

The survey also confirms that Mr Blair's honeymoon has lasted a lot longer than John Major's after the 1992 election. In 1993 17 per cent of the public were satisfied and 76 per cent dissatisfied with the Conservative Government. But now 52 per cent of the public are satisfied with the Labour Government, against 31 who are dissatisfied.

The most significant rating is on Northern Ireland. Before the general election Labour languished behind with only 22 per cent backing its policy against 31 per cent supporting John Major's line.

But Tony Blair's role in brokering the Good Friday peace agreement and a Yes vote in the referendum has added 57 points to Labour's rating on this issue. Some 79 per cent of the public think Labour now has the best policy on Ireland against 8 per cent for the Conservatives.

The high figures for Labour reflect to some extent the bipartisan approach to Northern Ireland. It is difficult for Opposition parties to shine in this area and Mr Hague has not shared the same high profile as Mr Blair on this issue.

Labour is also a long way ahead on the four issues rated as the most important: healthcare, education, unemployment and law and order. Labour leads 5:1 over the Tories on healthcare, 6:1 on education, 5:1 on unemployment and 2:1 on law and order. On law and order, the Tories have dropped ten points in the past year while Labour has gone up by 11 points.

Labour is also ahead of the Tories on having the best policies on taxation and the

general election. Some 36 per cent of the public think Labour has the best policy on taxation, compared with 27 per cent for the Tories. On the economy, 43 per cent think Labour has better policies compared with 27 per cent for the Tories.

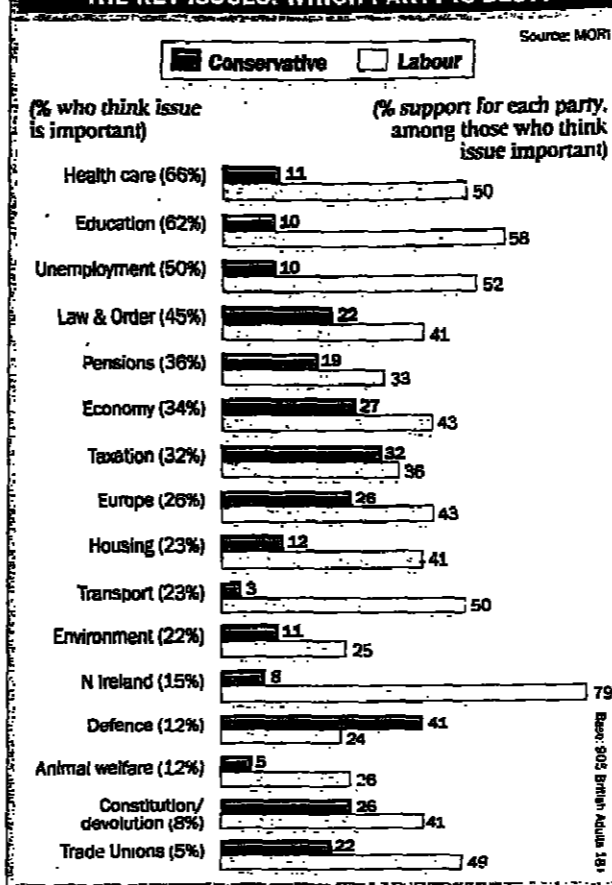
Labour's focus on Scottish and Welsh devolution has also earned it greater support with 41 per cent backing its policy, compared with 20 per cent before the election. However, devolution still rates low, only 8 per cent, as one of the issues

that would influence voting patterns at the next election.

Health has re-emerged as the most important issue facing Britain, according to the poll. While Europe is ranked the fourth most important issue facing Britain today it is ranked only eighth in the list of issues that people say affect their voting intentions.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 905 adults aged 18 plus at 155 sampling points across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted face to face on May 21-24.

THE KEY ISSUES: WHICH PARTY IS BEST?



Scots leaders act to heal rift on parliament

By Magnus Linklater

SCOTLAND'S political leaders are taking steps this weekend to patch up the bitter divisions that have opened up over the future of a Scottish parliament. In separate speeches in Glasgow, they will emphasise the benefits that a new parliament will bring, and point to the positive role that Scotland could play on the world stage after devolution.

The moves come after a fortnight in which rows have surfaced over whether there should be a referendum on independence in the new parliament. The Scottish National Party, buoyed by opinion polls that placed them slightly ahead of Labour, has called for an early referendum to test the appetite of the Scottish people for separate nationhood. Alex Salmond, the party's leader, believes that although the parliament has no constitutional right to call a referendum, it would be entitled to consult voters on their preference.

Labour has retaliated, claiming that calls for a referendum are divisive and unnecessary, and has accused the Nationalists of using the Parliament to promote their party at the expense of the national interest. John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, said that the SNP mentality was "stuck in an outdated timewarp", while Brian Wilson, the Scottish Office Minister for Education and Industry, said the party had "confirmed its place in the lower divisions of the fantasy politics league".

In a further setback for the SNP, a poll in the *Herald* newspaper showed that, despite support for the party, there had been virtually no move towards the notion of independence since the general election among the majority of voters. Only 34 per cent backed a separate Scotland. Most of the current support for the SNP comes because it is seen as the main opposition party in Scotland, and Labour has been through a difficult few months.



Reid: said the SNP was stuck in a timewarp

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Hague out of date on Europe, says Brittan

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

WILLIAM HAGUE faced a head-on challenge to his stance on Europe yesterday as Sir Leon Brittan declared that the single currency was the natural complement to everything the Conservative Party had stood for in the past two decades.

Sir Leon effectively told Mr Hague that he was out of date, and that his stance on the single currency risked pushing the Conservatives towards extinction.

Britain's senior European Commissioner said that the "uncomfortable truth" for some Conservatives was that monetary union had obliged many European governments to make exactly the kind of hard choices that Conservative governments had carried out in the 1980s: fiscal discipline, privatisation, deregulation and liberalisation.

In a straight sideswipe at Mr Hague, Sir Leon said: "It is on the shoulders of those who are now claiming that the EU is out of date that the label of atavism and anachronism weighs most heavily."

It would be a shame of tragic proportions if the party were to tread the European stage out of touch with reality and disconnected from the future. The Conservative Party would truly become a party of dinosaurs."

Sir Leon said that, in many ways, EMU was the greatest vehicle for the export of Conservative economic policies that had ever been devised. Speaking at the Carlton Club in Central London, one of the bastions of Toryism, the former Cabinet minister launched a direct onslaught on Mr Hague's analysis in a speech in France last week in which the Tory leader dubbed the single currency "a burning building with no exits".

In a point-by-point rebuttal, Sir Leon said that Mr Hague's belief that the EU was a post-war construction, aimed at preventing further wars in

Europe, was now long past its sell-by date. Mr Hague believed that the EU was a victim of outdated thinking forged in the 1950s to tackle the problems of the 1940s.

But, Sir Leon said, to depict the EU in those terms was a "fundamentally flawed anachronism". He said that Mr Hague was applying a 1980s vision to a simplified caricature of the EU of the 1970s. "It is not Europe that is out of date but the perception of what is actually happening in Europe today."

Sir Leon said it used to be fashionable to talk of a "fortress Europe" in which the EU was intent on restricting trade with the outside world. But now it was Europe that was pushing harder and harder for opening up trade, and the

single market had created economic dynamism transcending traditional frontiers.

He said Mr Hague had left out of his analysis the fact that the drive towards an open and flexible Europe had been accelerated by the advent of EMU. The political will to drive it forward with public spending cuts and monetary discipline had been woefully overlooked in Britain, he said.

Mr Hague's assertion that meaningful political legitimacy could only reside in the 19th-century nation state was an outdated concept of sovereignty, Sir Leon added. "We do not live in a Gaullist universe in which neatly segregated nations can neatly divide the available cake of sovereignty according to their specific needs."

Ordinary voters understood that sovereignty was a fluid concept. The Tories were rightly coming to terms with the moves towards decentralisation of government in Scotland and Wales.

Ian Taylor, who quit as Mr Hague's front bench spokesman in protest after the leader toughened his line on Europe, voiced his "strong support" for Sir Leon's view. He said: "Those who try to portray the EU as past its sell-by date are wrong. The Conservative Party must recognise the importance of the EU to the UK's continuing success on a global stage."

But Sir Leon's attack angered Hague loyalists and Eurosceptics. Norman Lamont last night accused him of using "empty baubles and windy Euro-blauster". The former Chancellor said: "I am sorry my good friend, Leon Brittan has chosen to speak in this way. It is absurd to dismiss the nation state as he does. William Hague's position is supported by the vast majority of Conservatives. His views have been carefully reasoned. They deserve a better response."



Brittan, above, told Hague his EMU stance could destroy the party



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Alternative medicine 'needs rules'

By Ian Murray

COMPLEMENTARY medicine should be well regulated so that it can be freely available on the National Health Service, Frank Dobson told a conference held at the initiative of the Prince of Wales yesterday. The Health Secretary told members of complementary and alternative medicine organisations: "People want treatment which is dependable whoever is providing it. They also want to be able to have confidence in the professional skill and integrity of the practitioners."

The Prince called for more research. "We need to commit ourselves to a vigorous but open-minded evaluation of practice in all aspects of health care," he said.

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...the SNP mentality was "stuck in an outdated timewarp", while Brian Wilson, the Scottish Office Minister for Education and Industry, said the party had "confirmed its place in the lower divisions of the fantasy politics league".

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Brief he

FROM ROBERT WEBSTER

THE final...
legal limits...
civilian intervention...
from the...
lasted less than...
After the...
Tokyo court...
years for the...
expected to take...



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Gardens restore the imperial calm

A visit to Kew was free of angry veterans, but there were protests before a lunch at No 10, reports Alan Hamilton

KEW GARDENS in southwest London are a haven of peace and botany and, for once during their troubled state visit to London, the Emperor and Empress of Japan managed to elude the pursuit of angry veterans for a welcome hour of tranquility there yesterday morning.

No former prisoners of war turned their backs as the imperial couple arrived to visit a recently restored replica of a 16th-century Japanese imperial gateway that stands in the old Palace of Kyoto, set in Kew's new Japanese landscaped garden. A sign at the entrance explains that it provides a calming atmosphere.

Formal Japanese gardens are well known in Britain; what is less known is that the Japanese have recently developed a taste for English gardening, with at least one television programme and several weekly magazines devoted to the art. On the balconies of the Tokyo high-rise, bonsai is out and colourful annuals are in. The mood of calm was enhanced by Empress Michiko, for the first time on the state visit, choosing to appear in traditional kimono, in a soft peach colour that was particularly easy on the eye.

She was presented with an unmistakably English posy of roses, honeysuckle and sweet peas by Jennifer Kirkham, the eight-year-old daughter of Kew's horticultural director, who had learnt a few words of Japanese. The Empress took the girl's hand and insisted that she accompany her for the rest of the couple's visit.

The Emperor was shown around by Professor Sir Ghillelean France, Kew's distinguished director who acquired

his Gaelic first name from having been brought up in the Outer Hebrides. Both being scientists, Sir Ghillelean and the Emperor found much in common.

But the peace was short-lived. As the imperial couple drove to their next engagement, lunch with the Blairs and 60 invited guests at Downing Street, a group of about 50 veterans positioned in Whitehall turned their backs on the imperial car and held up banners that seemed directed as much at the Prime Minister as they were at the Emperor.

"Japanese brutality hurts," said one. "British duplicity stinks," said another, a reference to Mr Blair's appeal to the

guest lists in favour of the ordinary and the relevant.

Yesterday's guests included no other members of the Cabinet. Instead, they included John Holland, who led an international team to rescue victims of the 1995 Kobe earthquake; Simon Barnes, who pushed himself the length of Japan in a wheelchair to raise money for spinal injury research; Sugumi Ota, a Japanese sculptress based in Britain; and Elizabeth Silver, a commodity trader working in London for a Tokyo finance house.

The Emperor of Japan is one of most powerless heads of state in the world, but he is probably the most educated. He is a marine biologist of international standing and has had more than

20 scientific papers published in the leading learned journals of the world. There is probably no one alive who knows more about the gobi fish. In recognition of his scientific achievements, conducted in his own laboratory at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, the Royal Society invited

him to a reception yesterday afternoon to present him with its new decoration, the King Charles II Medal. Named after the society's founder, the medal has been struck to honour foreign heads of state who "make an exceptional contribution to the promotion of science and its place in society".

Not surprisingly, the society said yesterday that it envisaged that its bestowal of such an honour would be "rare". The Emperor, who was accompanied to the ceremony by the Duke of Edinburgh, is the first recipient.

Philip Howard, page 24
Letters, page 25
Brian MacArthur, page 43

“The Emperor is one of the most powerless heads of state in the world, but may be the most educated”

veterans not to demonstrate during the state visit, and his refusal to back their claims for compensation.

The protesters did win one minor concession. Arthur Titherington, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, who is enjoying the highest-profile week of his life, handed in a letter to Downing Street asking for a meeting with the Prime Minister. A Downing Street aide promised later that Mr Blair would arrange a meeting with the association within the next two weeks.

Lunch was a demotic affair, in keeping with Mr Blair's style, which dictates that the great and the good should be rubbed from



Jennifer Kirkham, daughter of Kew's horticultural director, presenting a posy to the Empress

Motorway protesters warned of deathtrap tunnels

By A Staff Reporter

PROTESTERS camped along the planned route of Britain's first toll motorway have been given a warning by police that treacherous ground conditions could turn their tunnels into deathtraps.

Staffordshire Police have served warning notices at three sites along the 27-mile route of the Birmingham northern relief road that those responsible for any deaths or injuries as a result of tunnelling could be prosecuted.

One of the sites, the Green Wood Camp, is part of a sand and gravel quarry and the ground is unsuitable for excavations. "We don't know the full extent of the tunnelling, but we do know that the geology of this area cannot support underground structures of any depth," Steve Green, the Assistant Chief Constable, said yesterday.

"They are likely to have been constructed in a negligent or reckless manner which completely fails to comply with the most basic rules of mines safety or excavation. Many people could become trapped underground. This form of protest is directly putting lives at risk."

A cottage occupied by squatters had also been left in a dangerous condition. "Supports had been damaged and a stairwell removed. This building could have collapsed at any time and protesters could have been trapped beneath the rubble," Mr Green said.

There are between 20 and 30 "eco-warriors" occupying three sites at Greenwood Camp, Moneymore Cottages and the Milestone Plantation. Mr Green said: "To date, no one has died as a result of an environmental protest and we want it to stay that way."

But protesters dismissed his claims, saying that they were experienced tunnellers who knew what they were doing. Thomas Davies, one of the protesters, said: "Safety has always been of paramount importance to us. We take it very seriously and do not intend to injure anyone. Everything we do is done as safely as possible."

Brief hearing winds up PoWs' case for compensation

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE final encounter in a 3½-year legal battle by British PoWs and civilian internees to win compensation from the Japanese Government lasted less than five minutes.

After the briefest of hearings in a Tokyo courtroom yesterday, lawyers for the PoWs said it was expected to take several months for

the judges to rule in the case. The lawsuit, for £14,000 each in reparations and an official apology from the Japanese Government, was started in January 1995 on behalf of some 20,000 Allied captives of the Japanese Army.

In February, Tokyo District Court was the scene of dramatic testimony by Arthur Titherington, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camps

Survivors' Association, who fought back tears as he described the brutal regime in Japanese wartime slave camps. Yesterday, in final pleading, counsel for the PoWs and the Japanese Government simply submitted written arguments on the question of prisoners' rights under the Hague Convention, a pivotal issue in the compensation case.

In the course of the court case, the court that it wanted more time to make a fresh translation of pertinent clauses in the Hague Convention, which is written in French. The work was undertaken by the Foreign Ministry, the sole authority in Japan for interpreting international treaties. The ministry, which is closely monitoring the proceedings, is intensely worried that, if the PoWs win the lawsuit, thousands,

or even millions, of other victims of Japanese aggression in the Second World War would be encouraged to press their own claims for compensation.

After two months of translation work, government lawyers said yesterday that they had found no reason to revise their view that the convention provided no basis for claims by individual PoWs.

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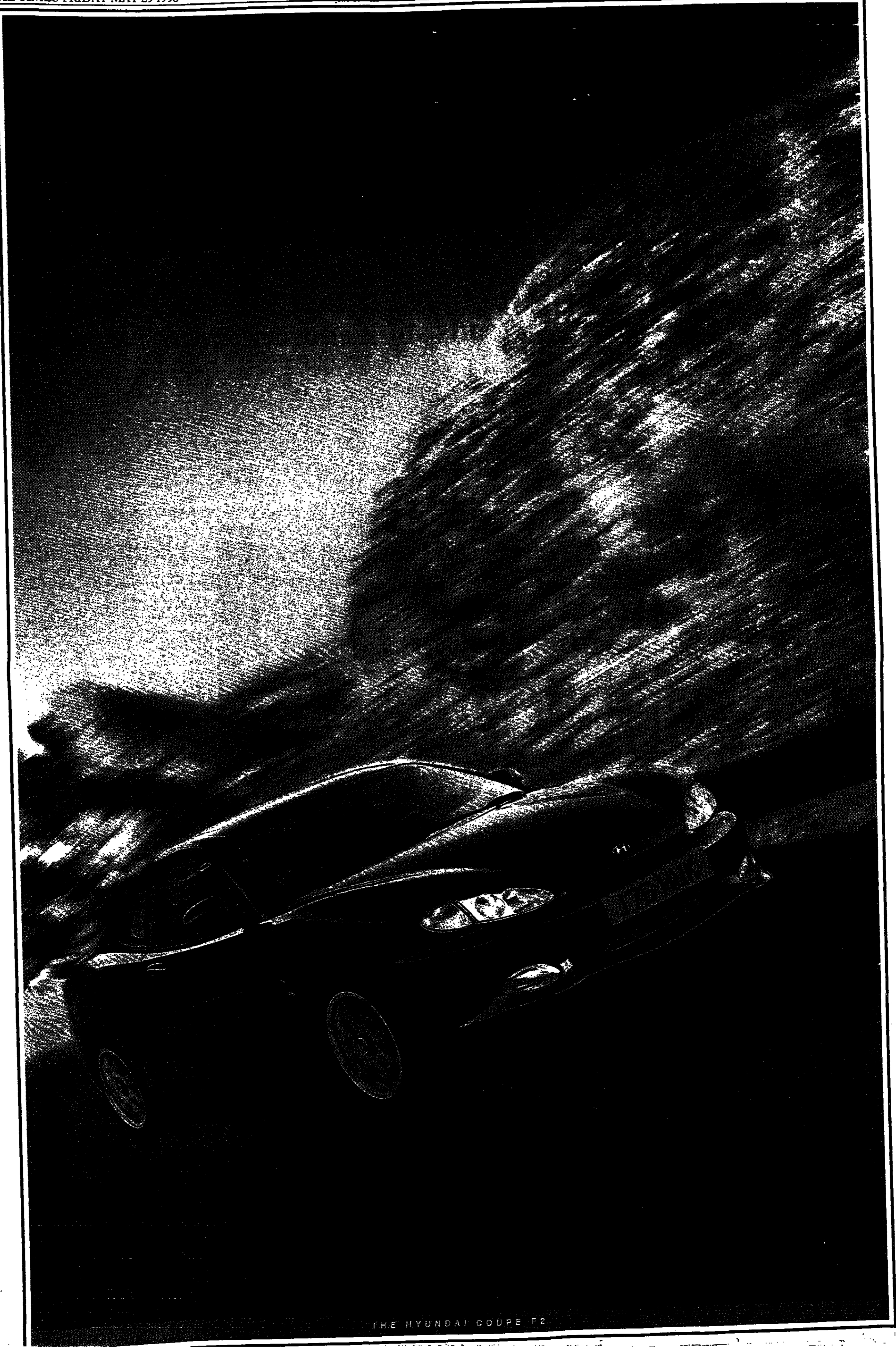
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THE HYUNDAI COUPE F2

HEADS' CONFERENCE

Teachers' leader wants pay to be based on results

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS should face annual assessments that take account of their pupils' examination results to qualify for substantial performance bonuses, a head teachers' leader said yesterday.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, broke ranks with other teaching unions, which have always opposed performance related pay, to outline radical proposals for a new contract for the profession. He claimed that a break with salaries based purely on seniority represented the only realistic chance of raising pay levels sufficiently to aid recruitment.

The new contract would give teachers a 37½-hour week with much greater flexibility over working hours. Head teachers could then negotiate "second contracts" with staff to run out-of-hours activities such as sports and choirs.

Under the proposals, which will be put to ministers shortly, classroom teachers would be restricted to a salary of £23,000 unless the head felt that they had "demonstrated

sustained fully acceptable teaching skills" during the year. Mr Hart said he expected a majority of senior teachers to satisfy the requirements, opening the way to salaries of up to £31,000.

Only teachers taking on additional responsibilities would be eligible for pay of up to £40,000, the maximum proposed by the Government for the new advanced skills teaching grade. Delegates to the NAHT's conference at Eastbourne have already rejected the new grade, arguing that too few will benefit.

Currently, a newly qualified teacher earns £14,751 a year, which will rise to £15,012 in December when the second half of the annual pay rise is awarded by the Government. An experienced teacher at the top of the pay scale, who has no extra responsibilities, receives £22,023, rising to £22,410 in December.

Mr Hart estimated that his proposals would cost more than £200 million to implement, allowing for increased differentials between heads and deputies and their class-

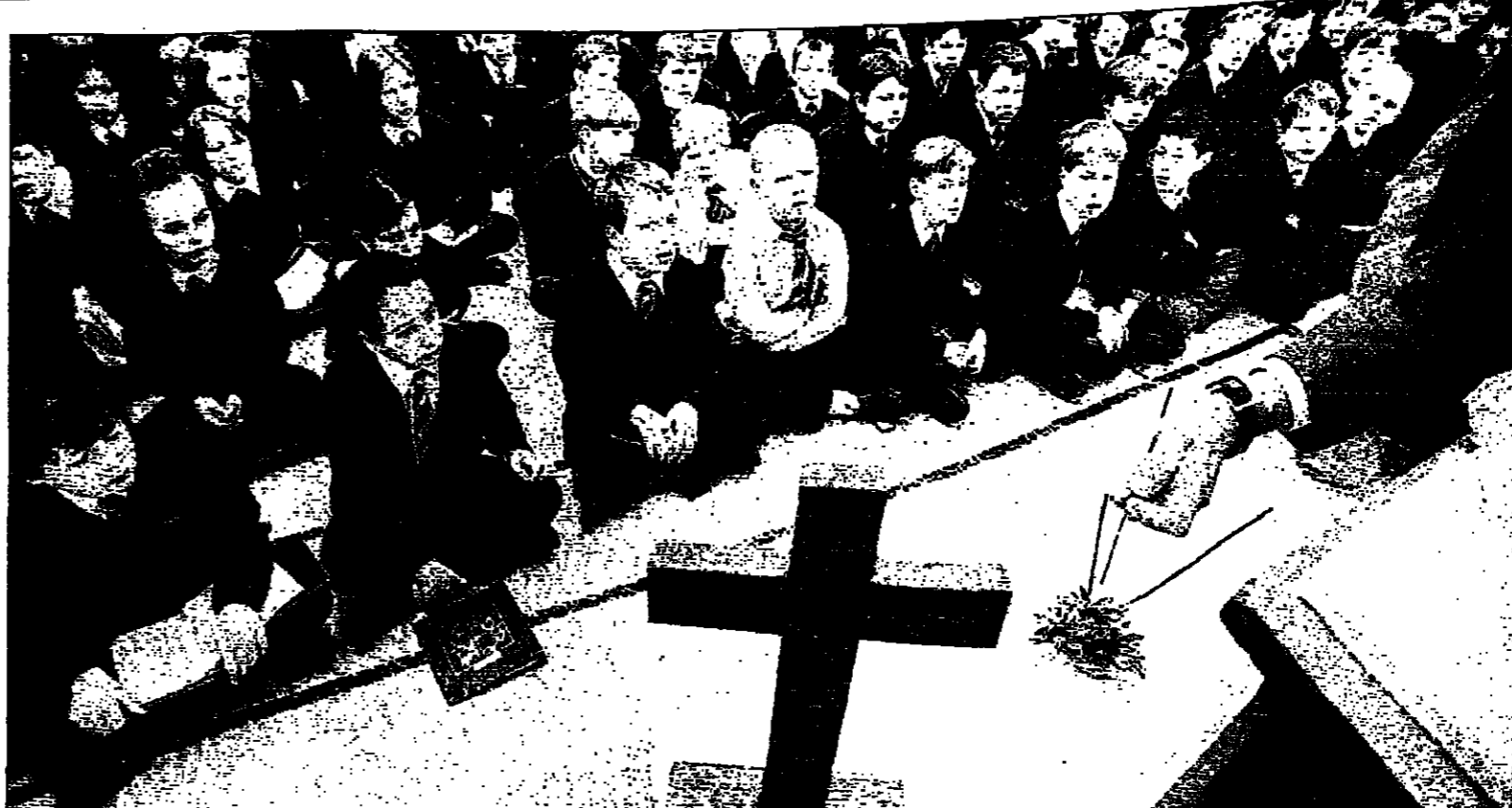
room staff. Nothing less would overcome growing recruitment difficulties.

He told delegates: "To those who say that the status quo should be preserved, I would give this answer: If we are unwilling to contemplate radical but acceptable changes, we could well find ourselves kissing goodbye to a national pay and conditions of service system sooner than we imagine."

He acknowledged that many heads would be reluctant to take responsibility for different levels of staff pay. But he believed the change would soon be accepted.

A teacher's annual assessment would cover all aspects of performance, including pupils' results. "When you are looking at whether the teacher has performed well through the year, the head is going to judge against a whole range of factors, including discipline. My own view is that the results of the class would be a factor, although I don't think heads would put it at the top of the list."

Head teachers argue that non-Christians should not be compelled to



The legal requirement for daily school assemblies should be relaxed, the head teachers' conference decided almost unanimously yesterday

Heads shun church line on assemblies

By JOHN O'LEARY

HEAD teachers have urged the Government to ignore the Church of England and relax the law requiring schools to hold daily Christian assemblies.

A near-unanimous vote at the conference yesterday called for a review of the law. Delegates backed to hold only one assembly a week without the obligation to include Christian worship.

Head teachers argue that non-Christians should not be compelled to

lead religious worship. Inspectors estimate that 70 per cent of secondary schools do not comply with the law, many because they do not have halls big enough to take all their pupils.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, has refused to order a review of collective worship because a year-long consultation failed to reach a consensus. A leaked Civil Service memo advised ministers to maintain a low profile on the issue because so few parents complained that the law was being flouted.

However, David Hart, the association's general secretary, urged Mr

Blunkett to think again because it was intolerable that head teachers should be forced into breaking the law. "If the law is an ass, as I believe it to be in this case, then something has to be done to change it."

Canon John Hall, general secretary of the Church of England Board of Education, said in a statement released before the debate that the Church would resist any attempt to change the law. "One of the key tasks of the education system is to teach people to pray," he said.

But the other main Churches backed a review. Methodists said the

law was unworkable and the Roman Catholic Church said it would accept greater flexibility only if daily worship were retained in some form.

At the conference, Tony Williams, a member of the NAHT's executive, said it was "dangerous" to suggest that teaching children to pray was the responsibility of schools. "I believe the key task of the education system is to teach people to question and to think."

Mr Hart said he would be requesting a meeting with Mr Blunkett to press the case for change.

Letters, page 25

Byers to insist on literacy targets

THE minister leading the Government's crusade on school standards will tell head teachers today not to question tough new improvement targets that many consider overly optimistic (John O'Leary writes).

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, will tell the conference that literacy targets for primary schools are not negotiable and that head teachers should be leading the process of transforming Britain's schools.

Delegates have agreed unanimously to advise members to set their own targets if they consider the figure set by their local authority to be

unrealistic. David Hart, the association's general secretary, said yesterday that a school's judgment should prevail where there was disagreement.

However, in an uncompromising response, Mr Byers is expected to tell delegates: "The targets are challenging, they are meant to be. The challenge facing us is to make Britain the best-educated and skilled nation in the Western world. We will not duck it. There will be no trimming on targets. The Government is deadly serious about raising standards and these targets are for real. It is what parents want and what children need."

Staff leave to save school

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

SEVEN teachers have resigned to make way for younger and cheaper staff in an attempt to save their primary school from mounting debts.

The teachers at the Deanery School in Walmley, West Midlands, acted after school governors hinted that higher-paid staff should search for other work.

The Rev Barry Harper, a school governor and vicar at the nearby St John the Evangelist Church, said that more than 82 per cent of the school's budget was spent on salaries. "We will look for other staff on lower wages," he said.

This year the Church of England school had a £20,000 deficit and is likely to fall deeper into debt next year when it loses its grant-maintained status.

Christine Keates, from the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said that some teachers had resigned to move to other schools, while others had decided to leave teaching.

Students to learn basic office skills

UNIVERSITY students

are to be taught how to use a photocopier and send a fax to help them to find a job when they graduate (Victoria Fletcher writes).

Complaints from employers that highly qualified graduates were clueless when it came to office work led Hull University to launch its practical skills programme.

A new business centre with simple office machines, which has received financial help from local businesses, opened yesterday. It will allow students to learn the most basic skills, such as making a telephone call, turning on a computer and printing documents. They will be taught by staff from the careers centre and university secretaries.

John Franks, director of the university's careers and appointments services, said that the lessons would extend in the future to some do's and don'ts for office fashion.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY

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By ALEXANDRA...

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Hume condemns obsession with sex and shopping

Cardinal urges new morality, writes Ruth Gledhill

SOCIETY'S twin obsessions with sex and shopping were criticised by Cardinal Basil Hume yesterday. The Archbishop of Westminster said that teenagers were being pressured into sex and that society was living off "a dwindling supply of spiritual and moral capital."

The cardinal, spiritual leader of the four million Roman Catholics in England and Wales, outlined his vision of a new society, calling for a rediscovery of spiritual, religious and moral values. He was delivering the 15th Arnold Goodman lecture for the Charities Aid Foundation at Glaziers Hall near London Bridge.

The passion and complexity of his lecture, titled: *Searching for Purpose: God and the Future of our Society*, were indications of the depths of his concern at the direction society is taking. He said that shopping centres had become the new cathedrals in the "cult of the consumer."

Other church leaders, such as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, share many of the cardinal's concerns. "For many people, it

seems, shopping has become a powerful source of meaning and fulfilment," Cardinal Hume said. "The cult of the consumer has gone deep."

He opened his lecture by describing Britain as it might be seen through the eyes of an unbiased visitor. "I would take her [the visitor] first to one of the new large shopping centres," he said. "She would see the extraordinary architecture, the massive domes and steeples, and inside halls and shops like naves and side-chapels."

The visitor might well ask what God was worshipped there, he said. "We would notice that many people seemed to come simply to be there, often to gaze in the windows and to be among other people, and not necessarily just to shop. It is almost as if the only institution to which we all belong now is the market."

He said teenagers were being encouraged, even pressurised, into sex at an early age. "There is a changed understanding of sexual relationships, with sexual involvement often being seen as separate from procreation and

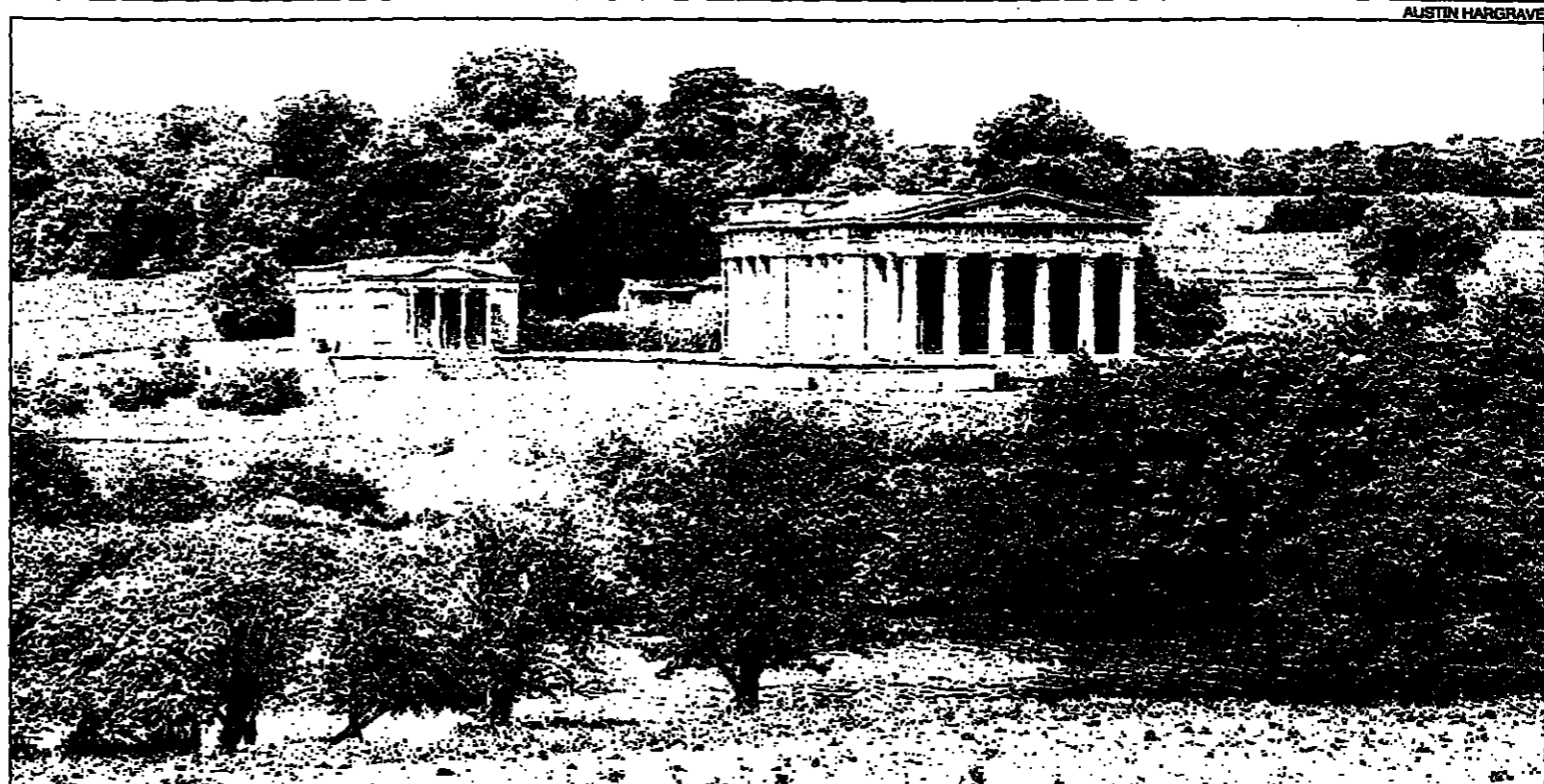
even from commitment. There is an implicit reduction of sexual intercourse to a form of achievement guaranteeing a certain teenage status."

In family life there was "much to celebrate, but much to lament". The visitor might be puzzled at the growth in cohabitation and the common use of the term "partner", testifying to the "provisional nature" of many relationships today.

"Beneath the changing patterns of work and family life, she would observe a tension that you and I would recognise as a seismic shift between men and women," Cardinal Hume said.

But there was much in society that pointed to "the truth of religion", he said. "I believe the human heart is naturally searching for the ultimate meaning and purpose of life."

More than ever, people now needed to slow down and be still. "To survive we have to escape from a mentality that sees society just as a mass of individuals placed side by side without any concern or responsibility for one another," he said.



The Grange, a country house in Hampshire, is to host a seven-day opera festival after permission was granted by Winchester City Council

Mozart marks stately home's revival

By Marcus Binney

ONE of England's most magnificent country houses is to reverberate to the sound of opera after standing for nearly 30 years as an empty shell.

Yesterday Winchester City Council gave permission for Wasfi Kani, the conductor who used to run Garsington Opera, another country-house venture, to hold an opera festival at The Grange in Hampshire. The seven-day inaugural festival, in July, will open with a gala evening

celebrating the history of The Grange, a mainly Regency building. It will continue with a new production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and conclude with a concert of opera favourites performed by the Grimethorpe Colliery Band.

Guests will watch the opera in the elegant Orangery, designed, like the house itself, in the form of a Classical temple. The red velvet seats were bought from the Royal Opera House when it closed for refurbishment. The audience will be served cham-

pagne under the Greek Doric portico and dine in the main rooms. They will be greeted by the spectacle of magnificent Classical interiors frozen at the moment they were half stripped out for the demolition that was planned in 1972.

The derelict state of The Grange has attracted film companies: it recently served as the set for a film about Pushkin's anti-hero Eugene Onegin and was transformed into a decaying Russian country house. The cellars became dressing rooms and a

green room and these will now serve Grange Park Opera.

Ms Kani said: "We have a ten-year agreement from Lord Ashburton, the owner of the estate and English Heritage [which manages it] to hold a festival. Like John Christie at Glyndebourne, we are opening with *Figaro*, which is a sure box-office hit." The *Figaro* is a sell-out.

Countering residents' concerns, Marie Crosswell, the company's spokesman, said: "The opera will be inaudible from the nearest houses."

Mothers reject formal classes in parenting

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

FORMAL parenting classes designed to teach adults how to improve their relationships with their children fail because they rarely address the real personal and practical problems faced by families, according to a new study. The report, published by Save the Children Scotland, found most parents were reluctant to attend such courses because they associated them with "problem" families. The Government's committee on the family has recommended the creation of a network of voluntary classes.

Elizabeth Cutting, of Save the Children Scotland, said that even people who wanted advice on how to bring up children did not like the idea of formal classes, largely because of the connotations in the Government's rhetoric that these were meant for "bad parents" and "problem children". Under the Crime and Disorder Bill, for example, parents of offenders up to the age of 17 may be forced to attend parenting classes.

"Parents do not want a formal class, where they are told what to do to improve their child's behaviour. They do want support, however, to help them cope with a range of needs and they want more information about child development, nutrition, first aid and health," she said. They overwhelmingly supported the creation of discussion groups or drop-in centres where they could meet other parents and get information and advice on a range of problems from temper tan-

trums and bed-wetting to providing a healthy diet on a low income. Many found that such groups took on the role of the extended family.

"Frequently, parents do not realise that certain behavioural issues are related to a stage and not behavioural 'problems' as such. Parents found that sharing concerns with other parents made them feel more self-confident," Ms Cutting said.

The study said that many parents felt isolated once their children reached school age, having lost contact with support structures such as health visitors and parent and toddler groups. The report, part of a three-year project, recommends the creation of "parents' rooms" in schools where parents can meet and forge greater links with the schools.

Adelle Hamilton, who took part in the study, helped to persuade her sons' primary school to set aside a classroom as a parents' room for two hours one morning a week. "It is great," Ms Hamilton said. "You can sit and have a chat and listen to other mums. Sometimes you hear something that you think will be a good tip for you. We can also organise things we want to do next week we have someone from the Brook Advisory Centre coming to teach us how to teach sex education to our children."

Most of the approximately 300 parents who took part in the study were women. The project now wants to find out how best to include fathers in parental support groups.

Parents do not want a formal class but practical support



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PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR TESTS

The balance of terror also has an upside

BY LAWRENCE FREEDMAN

COMMENTARY

CONDEMNATION of the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests has been widespread and robust, but when it comes from the established nuclear powers there is an unavoidable whiff of hypocrisy.

If deterrence helped to keep the peace in a divided Europe during the Cold War, might it not also work in other divided regions, such as South-East Asia or the Middle East?

The past ten years have shown it is not that easy to get out of a nuclear relationship

hotlines and confidence-building measures were in place. Entering into new nuclear relationships can be dangerous. China's determination to join the club was a key factor in its split with the Soviet Union, and then almost led it into war with its former ally.

empive strike. It was also China's first atomic test in 1964 that galvanised the Indian nuclear programme. The Chinese may now be reeling the help they gave to Pakistan to keep up with India.

Nor, as the past decade has made clear, is it easy to get out of a nuclear relationship. Aside from the obvious and familiar point that the technology cannot be unlearned, even decommissioning missiles has turned out to be a slow, expensive process.



Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's Prime Minister, vowed yesterday after the five nuclear tests that his country backed the goal of non-proliferation

that, in other parts of the world, policymakers cannot make their calculations with equivalent prudence. A major war tends to be a high-risk option, with or without weapons of mass destruction.

ogy. Their tests were more political statements than military moves, geared to domestic morale as much as external enemies.

relationships, confirming promises not to attack each other's nuclear facilities. Once, however, the two countries have placed nuclear deterrence at the heart of their relationship they will find it difficult to escape from its logic.

as important a development in recent days as Pakistan's catch-up nuclear test may be the growing awareness in India of the costs, political and economic, of the country's nuclear ambition.

demonstrating that the weapons continue to be valued. We still live in the nuclear age and will do so for some years to come, possibly benefiting from the extra caution it induces in our political leaders during periods of conflict, but reliant all the time on their responsibility in the face of its awesome power.

Club of Five faces dilemma of closing ranks or widening doors

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE previously exclusive club of five declared nuclear powers is now faced with a dilemma: whether to maintain a tough condemnatory stance towards India and Pakistan or tacitly to accept them as members and put pressure on them to sign the treaties that until now they have refused to support.

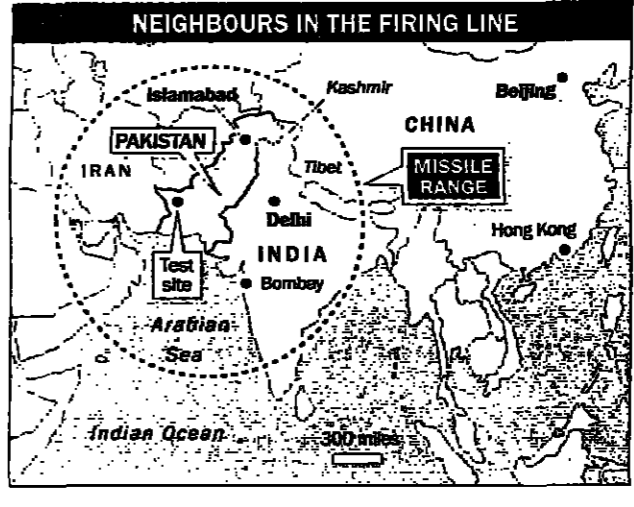
tries was intended to demonstrate to the so-called threshold nuclear states, such as India and Pakistan, that the exclusive club was ready to begin the process of disarmament. Now the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is in serious disarray, even though the breaches have been committed by two of the countries that are not signatories.

The negotiations that have been under way in Geneva to prepare for a review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2000 have without progress. UN sources said there were deep divisions, with the United States and Russia showing no interest in disarmament, and others, including Canada, New Zealand and Australia, arguing for a tougher treaty.

However, UN sources said that Pakistan was still far behind India in accumulating weapons-grade nuclear material and there was the risk that the Pakistanis would pursue an accelerated programme until it had built up a large stock of material to convert into warheads. Pakistan is supposed to have produced enough nuclear material for six or seven bombs. India has always had more weapons-grade material.

ers will have to decide whether to accept India and Pakistan as de facto members of the club. UN sources said that, although this would be difficult for the five powers to swallow, the only realistic strategy now was to focus all efforts on improving the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to discourage other countries from following the same route as India and Pakistan.

If India and Pakistan could also be persuaded to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, as China and France did after they had completed their final tests, the exclusive club might then have seven members, plus Israel as an undeclared nuclear power, "but at least they would be covered by the same rules".



THIS SUNDAY Banking Revolution. What do you consider a good incentive to change your bank? Includes an illustration of a person at a computer.

Power for mutual destruction heralds hope of restraint

THE end of decades of nuclear ambiguity between India and Pakistan has placed the two military giants of South Asia in a position to exercise restraint. Having demonstrated their potential to destroy each other, it has become politically possible for each to contemplate a mutual slowdown in the nuclear race.

There are no more nuclear secrets in South Asia. This is a contest between equals, Christopher Thomas writes

ently has neither any need nor desire to carry out more tests in its clamour to be the first to place nuclear tips on its missiles. Pakistan might equally find no objection to signing the pact. It is also racing to miniaturise nuclear warheads for missile delivery.

The hope of restraint rests now on an equality of fear. Each has the other's measure, as George Fernandes, the Indian Defence Minister, made clear yesterday: there are no big nuclear secrets in South Asia any more. Even the extremists know the race is unwinnable.

Restraint will nevertheless not be in the vocabulary of Islamic hardliners in Pakistan nor of Hindu fundamentalists in India, both wanting to press ahead with becoming even more sophisticated nuclear superpowers. But the explosion of ten nuclear devices, assuming there are no more, means that the febrile atmosphere of the past few weeks can be allowed to cool, giving an opening for calmer

counsel. Indeed, that is happening in India, where there are mounting doubts that testing was a good idea. The opposition Congress Party is waiting for public opinion to shift once the economic cost becomes clear, and then it will pounce.

assured of leaving with something worthwhile. He telephoned Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, three times or four times — the last time on Wednesday — only to be snubbed. Mr Clinton will not want to be spurned further in person: if nuclear restraint is not on offer, he may not visit — thus joining the ranks of most US Presidents who considered the region a waste of time, other than for exploiting its location in the Cold War contest over Afghanistan.

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PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR TESTS

Leading powers condemn Asian arms race

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND HELEN RUMBELOW

BRITAIN yesterday expressed dismay at Pakistan's nuclear tests, and instructed the British High Commissioner in Islamabad to convey a strong protest on behalf of all European Union member states.

"We condemn this action, which runs counter to the will expressed by 149 signatories to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to cease nuclear testing and to efforts to strengthen the global non-proliferation treaty," Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said.

Mr Cook urged India and Pakistan to adhere unconditionally to the nuclear treaties and to start talks on ceasing production of fissile material. He urged both countries, and others in the region, to refrain from further tests, to engage in a dialogue that addressed the causes of the tension, and to try to build confidence rather than seek confrontation.

World leaders expressed their disappointment at yesterday's tests and urged Pakistan and India to stop the accelerating nuclear arms race in Asia. As well as Britain, the world's other major nuclear powers — America, Russia, France and China — issued strong condemnations.

In Moscow, the Foreign Ministry said it had "the deepest regret and concern"

REACTION

over the tests, which would do nothing to advance peace in the region or the world, while Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, said the tests were a dangerous result of the collapse of the Russian and American balance after the Cold War.

China, which had been the world's sole nuclear power since its tests on May 11, regretted that Pakistan had decided to enter the nuclear arms race. "The Chinese government is deeply concerned and uneasy about the arms race in South Asia," said a statement from the Foreign Ministry.

France deplored the tests, and said it would continue its efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation. The Foreign Ministry said: "France regrets that Pakistan did not take account of calls made to it to show restraint."

Nato attacked the latest development. Javier Solana, the Secretary-General, said: "We strongly condemn both Pakistan and India's nuclear tests, which have profound implications for the security of the region and beyond."

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said it was unfortunate that Pakistan had "disregarded the will of the international community for a definitive end to all nuclear tests", and instead answered India "with the same coin".



Pakistanis in Karachi celebrate after Nawaz Sharif, their Prime Minister, announced five nuclear tests. The decision has been condemned by the major nuclear powers

First strike could be key to Islamabad strategy

Yesterday's tests will have far more disturbing consequences than Delhi's, Eric Arnett says

THE decision by Pakistan to test five nuclear devices yesterday has far greater and more disturbing consequences for the region than simply matching India's actions this month.

Unlike India, where the nuclear programme remains firmly under civilian control, there is no doubt that the military are deeply involved in Pakistan's nuclear planning, apparently forcing Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, to authorise the tests despite his reluctance. More importantly, while India regards its nuclear deterrent as a weapon of last resort, nuclear first strike could become a key part of the Pakistani military's defence strategy.

For India, which enjoys a growing military superiority over Pakistan, nuclear weapons are necessary only to deter others from using them, so that the armed forces can go about winning a conventional war if necessary. As the Indian leadership repeated after its recent tests, conventional war might be necessary if Pakistani support for insurgents in Kashmir crosses a certain threshold. For Pakistan, the expectation is

much grander. Since the late 1980s, when the ability to field nuclear weapons was officially acknowledged, Pakistani officials have been promoting the view that their nuclear capability could deter India from waging a conventional war. Mushahid Hussain, Information Secretary for the ruling Pakistan Muslim League, said in 1991: "The only reason recent confrontations between the Pakistani and Indian armies were not converted into conflict was the nuclear factor."

But Pakistani leaders apparently do not believe that the nuclear stand-off obliges them to stop running the risk of supporting the Kashmir insurgency or shooting across the border. In such circumstances, war is possible. It is in Pakistan's efforts to make its nuclear deterrent more credible that the risk lies. One way that deterrence can be bolstered is by making threats to behave recklessly.

Pakistani military leaders fully comprehend what Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger called the "madman theory" of deterrence.

Asad Durrani, the former director of Inter-Services Intelligence, acknowledged in 1995 that Pakistan could hope to deter war only if Indian planners believe "we are primed, almost desperate to use our nuclear capabilities when our national objectives are threatened: for example, a major crackdown on the freedom movement in Kashmir".

Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who was then President, seems to have been foreshadowing Mr Durrani's advice when he claimed in 1990: "In the event of war with India, Pakistan would use nuclear weapons at an early stage."

In contrast, India's strategy is based on deploying a few nuclear weapons kept out of reach of Pakistani aircraft. India is thought to



Kissinger: "madman theory"

that Pakistan needs to produce more fissile material for nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, even if no more nuclear tests were needed.

Again, it is likely that longer-range weapons will also be seen as necessary in the hope of deterring nuclear retaliation. Pakistan is thought to have enough highly enriched uranium for about five weapons after yesterday's tests. Until India achieved air superiority, those could be carried to targets by French-supplied Mirage aircraft (American officials have said that the US-supplied F16s cannot be used for nuclear delivery).

Furthermore, because the Indian Air Force is likely to be pounding Pakistani airbases, radar stations and command-and-control sites in any conventional war, Pakistan will either have to use nuclear weapons early or risk losing its ability to use them as the war continues.

Eric Arnett is a project leader at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and author of Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control in South Asia after the Test Ban.



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Jakarta shapes reform for free polls next year

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN JAKARTA

INDONESIA'S top political leaders started work yesterday on a complete reform of the electoral system so that free general elections — the country's first — can be held next year.

The moves came as Derek Fatchett, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, became the first foreign government representative to meet President Habibie. Afterwards Mr Fatchett said he had emphasised to President Habibie that it was "essential to maintain the momentum of political reform".

As Jakarta parliamentarians met Dr Habibie, students demonstrated outside parliament, calling for him to be replaced by a transitional government until elections can be held. While their protest sparked no real tension with

the troops guarding the building, police in Sumatra increased patrols after a protest against government corruption turned violent, with mobs burning cars and Chinese-owned shops. It was the first riot since the former President Suharto resigned last week.

In the capital, Harmoko, the parliamentary Speaker, told reporters after meeting Dr Habibie and senior members of his Cabinet that a special session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) would be called late this year or early in 1999 to approve changes in electoral law, necessary before polling.

The 1,000-member MPR, which includes the 500 members of parliament and nominated civilian and military officers, is Indonesia's top decision-making body. One

foreign diplomat in Jakarta added: "What is needed is a complete revamp of the political system, such as deciding how many political parties there should be."

"All this can't be done overnight, but the sooner the better in terms of internal stability and international confidence."

After meeting President Habibie, Mr Fatchett, who said he was acting as Tony Blair's special emissary, said further reforms should "lead to more accountable and transparent government, which meets the democratic aspirations of the Indonesian people". He added: "Second, the reform process must be given concrete form soon. The way forward is to publish a specific timetable for revising political legislation, with a fixed date for new



Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office Minister, at a meeting in Jakarta yesterday with Xanana Gusmao, the jailed East Timor resistance leader

elections." The minister emphasised that political and economic reform go together.

Mr Fatchett also met Xanana Gusmao, the jailed East Timorese resistance leader who is serving a 20-year

sentence for armed rebellion, becoming the first European minister to do so. Mr Fatchett called on Indonesia to free him. President Habibie is under pressure from Western governments for movement

on East Timor, which was invaded and illegally annexed by Mr Suharto in the mid-1970s.

However, two more political prisoners were freed yesterday, and more such releases

are expected. The two had been imprisoned for allegedly insulting Mr Suharto.

Meanwhile, Hubert Neiss, the Asia-Pacific director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), ended his talks with

Indonesian economic ministers on the reforms that have been undertaken and the future disbursement of badly needed bail-out funds. He will now report to the IMF executive board in Washington.

Blair's envoy to Habibie is 'star' of Foreign Office

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DEREK FATCHETT, the Foreign Minister, yesterday delivered a personal note from Tony Blair to President Habibie of Indonesia and praised the political and economic reforms promised by the new Government.

He is the most senior visitor to arrive in Jakarta since President Suharto stood down, and he promised strong European Union backing for the reforms that Indonesia has agreed with the International Monetary Fund.

"For Indonesia, political reform and economic reform go together, they are the Siamese twins of economic success."

Mr Fatchett told a press conference. He said it was essential to maintain the momentum of political reform, leading to more accountable government, and he said that reforms must be given concrete form soon.

His visit, and his role as a personal envoy of the Prime Minister, underlines the growing political weight of a man who was little known outside Westminster before he became Minister. Many diplomats now see him as the most effective and professional minister of state in the Foreign Office, with his stature enhanced as Robin Cook and Tony Lloyd have floundered in the Sandline affair.

Mr Fatchett, responsible mainly for British policy in the Middle East, has been closely involved in the Prime Minister's visit to the region. He has also earned a reputation as a tough, hard-working minister who has managed to steer British policy through some of the most notoriously treacherous diplomatic shoals without falling foul of any of the governments in the region.

Arabs and Israelis are equally impressed. "He is perceived as someone who is a professional, who knows the region well and who is able to express criticism in a way that we can accept," one London-based diplomat said.

Mr Fatchett, 52, has made a number of speeches that have criticised Israeli policy on the peace process without provoking anger in Jerusalem. One

Israeli source said the minister was a good speaker, and Israelis appreciated anyone who could stand up for his point of view.

Mr Fatchett's background would not suggest a smooth diplomatic manner. He made his name as a leftwinger, a lecturer who was a keen critic of American policy in Central America and an admirer of Arthur Scargill. He joined the Labour Party in 1964, became active in Yorkshire politics and went on to be an outspoken critic of the Thatcher Government. He was a Labour whip in 1986 and in 1987 became assistant campaign

co-ordinator under Bryan Gould in 1987, playing a big role in the campaign against the poll tax, in student and university issues and in matters of youth employment.

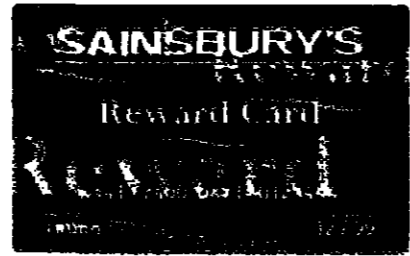
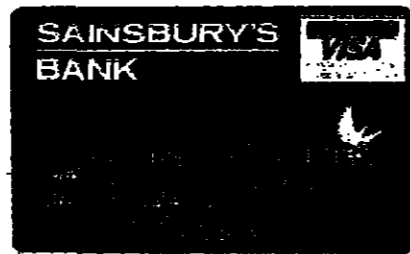
Since his appointment, ideology has played little part in his job. "He is universally highly regarded and popular," one British diplomat said yesterday. "He made his name first over Iraq, and then over the Middle East. He is competent, personable and generally liked." It is a sentiment echoed by British diplomats overseas, although they are wary of speaking on the record in case any implied comparison is drawn with Mr Cook.

But others in the Foreign Office were less inhibited. "He is head and shoulders above all the other ministers here. He'll go a long way."



Cook floundered over the Sandline affair

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Danes on course to support wider Europe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN COPENHAGEN

DANISH voters appeared likely to give clear endorsement to the treaty of Amsterdam in yesterday's referendum...

The expected "Ja" in the country's third EU referendum in six years was a big relief to the centre-left Government of Poul Nyrup Rasmussen...

All had fought to convince their Eurosceptic countrymen that a "Nej" to Amsterdam would exile Denmark to the fringes of European power...

The no campaign, which hailed mainly from the further reaches of the Left and the Right, had marshalled a strong campaign in recent days on the theme of saving Denmark's sovereignty...

The Amsterdam treaty, though regarded as weak by most other EU states, lays the ground for enlarging the Union to the East and centralising control of frontiers and immigration...

Britain and Ireland opted out from the border arrangement. Driving ban: EU drivers will no longer be able to drive anywhere in the EU if they are banned from taking the road in one member state country...

Letters, page 25

Yeltsin pledges tax purge to save economy

Robin Lodge reports from Moscow on efforts to restore confidence

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday strove to restore confidence in the struggling Russian economy after Wednesday's move by the central bank to triple interest rates to 150 per cent amid plummeting stock prices and growing pressure on the rouble.

Mr Yeltsin promised tough measures against tax evaders, including the seizure of property, and repeated government assurances that there would be no devaluation. Market reaction appeared favourable last night, giving the Government vital breathing space.

The President, speaking after meeting Sergei Kiriyenko, the Prime Minister, Sergei Dubinin, the central bank chairman, Mikhail Zadornov, the Finance Minister, and Valentin Yumashev, the Kremlin Chief of Staff, expressed confidence that Russia would weather the crisis.

The crisis has dealt a severe blow to Mr Kiriyenko's new Government, appointed with the explicit aim of providing a new economic dynamism.

Moscow has blamed external factors for the latest crisis, pointing to a knock-on effect from the collapse of Asian markets and foreign speculation against the rouble.

All those factors have combined to erode Russia's economic credibility and it will take more than statements to restore it. Christopher Granville, of Fleming UCB, the Russian affiliate of the British bank Fleming, said: "Nothing the authorities say will make any difference at this stage. They will be judged only by their actions."

He added, however, that the decision to defend the rouble "has to be right" and pointed to the stabilisation of the currency over the past three years as the main economic policy success.

Accordingly, the decision to raise interest rates to defend the rouble was the only viable option and in the short to medium term should have negligible adverse effects on the economy or the population, given the absence of consumer or industrial credit.

In the longer term, the Government, struggling with a huge budget deficit, can ill afford to set itself even higher rates to pay off its debts and will be forced to make swingeing public spending cuts.

"But you worry about the end when you get there. The losses are high, but this is the lesser evil when the main task is to maintain credibility," Mr Granville said.

Much will depend on the attitude taken by the International Monetary Fund. Michel Camdessus, the IMF chairman, gave a broad hint of his support yesterday when he said that the release of the latest \$670 million (£440 million) instalment of the IMF's \$9.2 billion loan to Moscow, combined with the measures taken by the Russian authorities, should be enough to see the country through the crisis.

But the Russians have made clear that they would welcome additional support. Oleg Vyugin, the Deputy Finance Minister, said yesterday that the release of the latest instalment would not in itself be enough, and suggested that an IMF stabilisation plan would ease the situation quickly.

"If we are talking about any support, it must be on a different scale," he said, adding that a further credit would not necessarily be spent, but held to provide a psychological boost to the economy. At the same time, he added, "there are quite realistic chances to save the situation without extra help".

Garden dug up in French murder inquiry

By Our Foreign Staff

TWO brothers suspected of raping their 25-year-old sister and then murdering the babies they fathered are being questioned by police in northern France, officials said yesterday.

About 60 police officers and forensic scientists have been digging up the family's back garden in the village of Illies, near Lille, since Monday, but no bodies have been found. The police said they were looking for the remains of up to six babies.

For the fourth day in succession, mechanical diggers raked the grounds of the Lefranc family home, a bleak two-storey building believed to have been the scene for years of rape, incest, brutality and drunkenness by the family of six.

Neighbours have said they saw Patricia Lefranc pregnant several times in recent years, but never saw any babies. She search began after she accused her two older brothers, 31 and 35, of raping her and killing and burying the newborn babies.

A judicial source said statements indicated that between four and six babies had been born as a result of the rapes and then been disposed of. The source said the dead babies appeared to have been thrown into a garden cesspool.

The three have been in police custody since March, when they were accused of beating their father, Paul Lefranc, 67, after a doctor alerted the authorities to signs of abuse.

Their mother, Lucie, and her youngest son were questioned by the police about the rape and murder allegations this week. Both had supported Patricia Lefranc's statements, police said.

M Lefranc has been sent to an old people's home.

Paris: Peggy Bouchet, 24, of France, believed to be the first woman to try to row single-handed across the Atlantic, capsized yesterday off the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, only two days away from success after 79 days at sea. (AFP)



President Yeltsin, who had tough decisions on the economy to make yesterday, with Seymour Rebaubele, the Lesotho Ambassador, at a Kremlin ceremony

Gays attack fudged law rehabilitating victims of Nazis

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN homosexuals and deserters sentenced in Nazi courts were yesterday exonerated by a large parliamentary majority, but gay organisations said the move fell short of the necessary remorse.

Under the Bill, passed into law yesterday, convictions "imposed by Nazi courts for political, military, racist, religious or philosophical reasons after January 30, 1933, that go against the basic precepts of justice will be lifted".

The vagueness of the phrasing was deliberate, to camouflage long-standing differences in parliament about the status of wartime deserters.

Conservative politicians argued that many wartime deserters were common criminals and that they sometimes acted treacherously by leaving their fellow soldiers vulnerable. Social Democrats and Greens, however, say that the mere act of desertion, which carried the penalty of death, was heroic.

Yesterday's law tries to fudge the problem by not stating precisely which groups are to be rehabilitated, offending deserters and homosexuals. "It is a slap in the face," said Günter Dworek, of the German Association of Gays.

Volker Beck, a Green and the only self-confessed homosexual deputy in parliament, agreed. Under the terms of the law, he said, only those gays who ended up in concentration camps are morally rehabilitated.

Nazi courts sentenced about 50,000 homosexuals under legislation introduced in 1935. Between 10,000 and 15,000 were sent to concentration camps. During the Second World War, many homosexuals were sent to fight on the Eastern front rather than to the camps.

Only about 20 or 30 homosexual concentration-camp victims are alive, but Herr Beck believes there are thousands of other surviving convicted homosexuals.

Nobody knows the precise figures, but between 1945 and 1959 only 14 homosexual Nazi victims claimed compensation. Gay organisations are therefore demanding that the law makes special mention of homosexual victims.

"If the law does not specify those prosecuted under paragraph 175 of the prewar penal code — under which practising homosexuals could be jailed for up to ten years — there can be no real exoneration," Herr Dworek said.

The law is a blanket pardon for about 500,000 victims and is supposed to satisfy many other groups of victims, including Jehovah's Witnesses and those who were forced into sterilisation. The law does not, however, entitle the victims to financial recompense.

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Nato ready to guard border for Albania

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO foreign ministers warned President Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, yesterday that the alliance was ready to send troops to Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to prevent the conflict in the Serbian province of Kosovo from spilling over the borders.

Meeting in Luxembourg, the foreign ministers said that "if necessary" the alliance would deploy troops to guard the borders with Kosovo. In the meantime, there are to be two large military exercises in the summer in Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The exercises will involve troops and fighter aircraft. British forces are expected to be included.

In a statement, the NATO ministers called for detailed plans to be drawn up for preventive deployments to help the two countries to secure their borders and to stop the crisis in Kosovo expanding into a wider conflict.

A preliminary study by NATO military planners this month concluded that it would take between 7,000 and 20,000 troops to prevent the flow of arms from Albania to the ethnic Albanian population of Kosovo which is suffering repressive action by Yugoslav military and police units.

NATO officials acknowledged that if the alliance decided to send a large force to secure the borders, it could be accused of helping President Milosevic. It would be in his interests if

cross-border arms smuggling to the Albanian resistance in Kosovo was stopped.

However, the Albanian Government has appealed for help from Nato and the foreign ministers registered their determination to prevent another Bosnia from erupting in the region.

The ministers warned Mr Milosevic that the alliance was even ready to consider direct intervention in Kosovo. The foreign ministers said that Mr Milosevic had a "special responsibility" to achieve a political solution with Kosovo's ethnic Albanians, but added that that should lead to Kosovo having "enhanced political status", not independence. Nato agrees that the political integrity of the Yugoslav federal republic should be preserved.

Madeleine Albright, the US

Secretary of State, said that contingency planning by Nato was essential. She said the threat of cross-border actions from Kosovo to Albania was real, providing "another reminder that it is Milosevic that is internationalising this conflict".

A number of other measures were agreed by the ministers, including the deployment of a naval force to the Albanian port of Durres early next month and a five-man Nato "cell" to be established in Tirana, the Albanian capital.

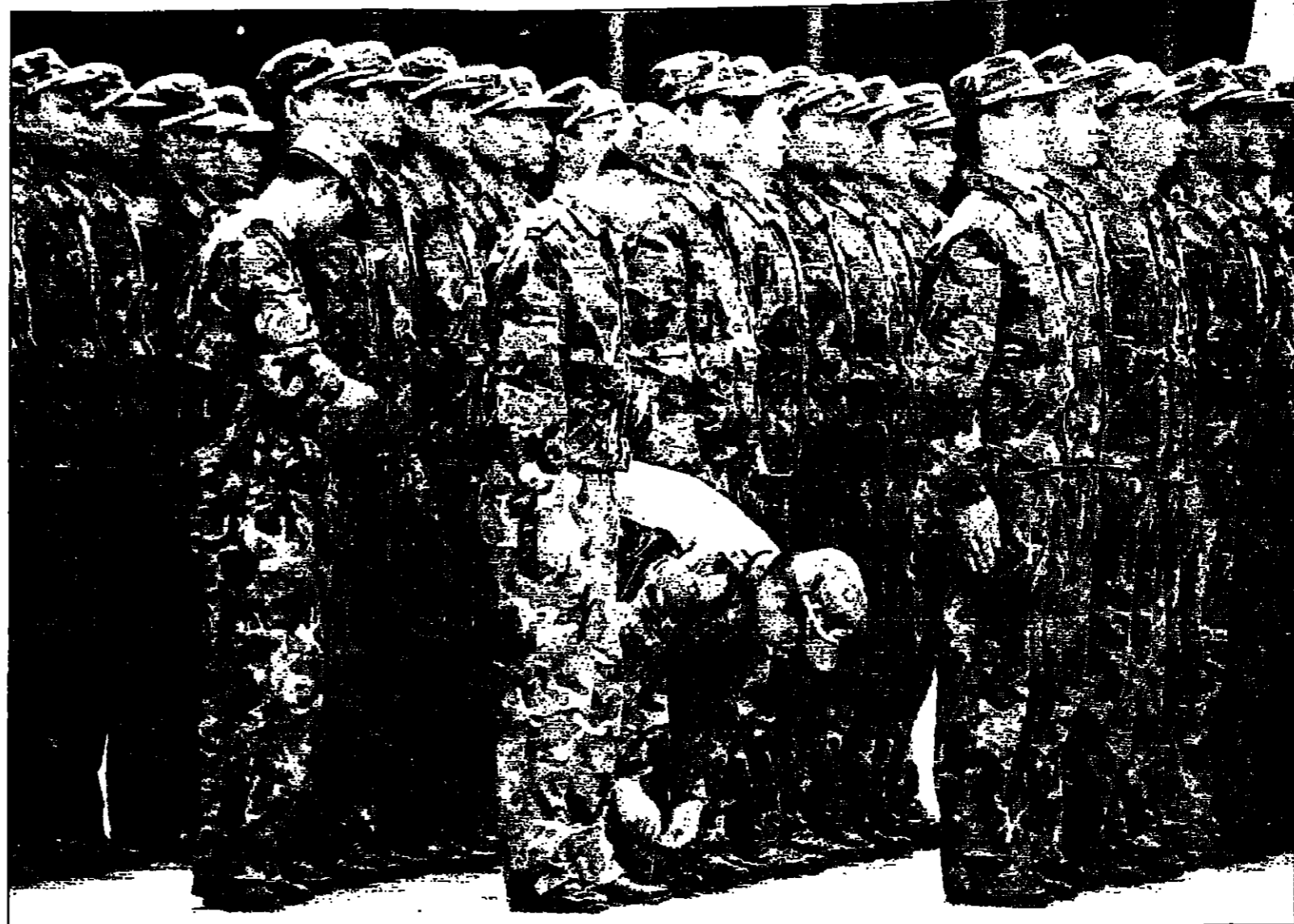
The ministers also agreed that the 800 United Nations force based in Macedonia should be increased to its original size of 1,050. They said a continued military presence would be necessary after the expiry of the UN mandate on August 31 and Nato troops could be involved.

Despite the military measures, Nato hopes that diplomatic and political pressure on the Yugoslav authorities and ethnic Albanian leaders in Kosovo will produce a negotiated end to the crisis. President Clinton is scheduled to meet Ibrahim Rugova, the province's ethnic Albanian leader, in Washington today.

□ Camp chief held: Milojica Kos, a former commander at the infamous Omarska prison camp in Bosnia, has been detained by Nato-led stabilisation force troops, an official of the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia said yesterday.



Albright: spillover threat from Kosovo is real



Out of step: a Chinese military policeman ties his laces as his comrades stand to attention after drill outside their central Beijing barracks

Lebanon ambush kills two Israeli soldiers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE guerrilla war in southern Lebanon crept closer to Israel's vulnerable northern border when two Israeli soldiers were killed and two wounded in an ambush 50 yards from the frontier. The dead soldiers, of the crack Golani Brigade, were both 20.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah quickly claimed responsibility for the remote-controlled bomb. The attack late on Wednesday night came after

the most intense week of fighting in Lebanon for months in which four Israeli-allied Lebanese militiamen and at least five Hezbollah fighters were killed.

Before the ambush a Lebanese shepherd, 16, was killed and a Lebanese civilian was wounded in separate explosions in fields near the market town of Nabatiyeh — attacks blamed locally on Israeli agents.

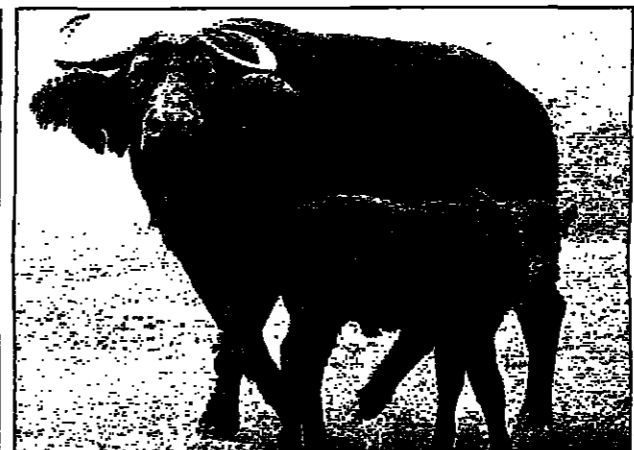
Israeli authorities were deeply worried by the bomb, which indicated collaboration by south Lebanese living

deep in the buffer zone Israel has maintained since most of its troops withdrew from Lebanon in 1985. The blast raised to six the number of Israelis killed in Lebanon this year. Another 58 have been wounded.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has recently offered to withdraw from south Lebanon, but only if the Beirut Government provides security guarantees against Hezbollah extending its campaign with cross-border raids into northern Israel. Both Lebanon and Syria have rejected the offer, on the ground that a 20-year-old United Nations resolution calls for an unconditional withdrawal.

Yesterday, during a visit to China, Mr Netanyahu said that the offer was still there, adding: "Until we succeed in implementing it, we will have to absorb these tragedies."

□ Rome: The first joint Islamic-Christian committee, between the Vatican and the Sunni Islamic institute, Al-Azhar, was set up here after four years of negotiation. The Pope will receive a delegation from Al-Azhar today. (AFP)



Cape buffalo and calf. Up to half of those trapped in boiling mud in Mamil National Park are to be shot

Underground fires cook buffalo alive

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

SCORES of buffalo trapped in boiling mud caused by underground fires set by hungry tribesmen in Namibia are to be shot by park wardens to save them from further agony.

Philemon Malima, Minister for the Environment and Tourism, said 70 buffalo with burnt hooves are to be shot over the next few days in mercy killings that could reach 150, half the Mamil National Park's buffalo population. Hunters started the underground fires in an effort to trap the animals for meat.

Mr Malima said that the buffalo, held in boiling mud by burning seams of coal and peat under the Caprivi Strip in northeast Namibia, had often fallen prey to the local people, who had been given meat from culled animals by park wardens. Many of the calves died on the spot because they could not move after their hooves and other body parts were "cooked" in the mud.

"The situation is very bad at the Mamil National Park, many buffalo are stranded in the boiling mud in the wetland of Mamil," Mr Malima told *The Namibian* newspaper yesterday. He said the boiling of the buffalo had provided a bonanza for prides of lions that had wandered into the park and were feeding on the beasts as they writhed in the scalding mud.

Mr Malima described the loss of the buffalo as a national disaster and said that chiefs had been told to track down those who set the fires, so that they did not "destroy the heritage of the Caprivi".

The fires have been so severe that all the wetlands of the Mamil Park have been turned into an inferno of burning reeds while peat and coal burning beneath the surface has caused the earth to boil. Park wardens are surprised that few animals other than the buffalo had been trapped in the boiling puddles, although they said this may be because the animals had an early warning system for fire.

Underground fires in an effort to trap the animals for meat.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Internet chief loses porn case

Bonn: A former executive of the CompuServe online service was convicted yesterday of helping to spread pornography through the internet (Roger Boyes writes). Felix Sommer, a Swiss citizen, was given a two-year suspended jail sentence for his complicity in 13 cases.

Even on the Internet there can be no law-free zones, the Munich court ruled. Sommer had said the German subsidiary did not have its own server and he was unable to filter out the pornography.

Under a change in German law, access providers are now not generally held liable for Internet material, but must try to block banned material.

Retrial rejected

Stockholm: Sweden's Supreme Court said new evidence was not sufficient to retry Christer Pettersson, 51, convicted and then cleared of killing Olof Palme, the Prime Minister, in 1986. (Reuters)

Burma gesture

Rangoon: Burma's National League for Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, met for two days to mark its 1990 poll landslide — the first time the military junta has allowed it to do so. (Reuters)

Eritrea war alert

Asmara: Thousands of veterans of Eritrea's 30-year war for independence from Ethiopia boarded lorries to head for disputed border areas as war rhetoric between the two countries intensified. (AP)

Mugabe protest

Harare: One thousand Zimbabwean students demonstrated against corruption in President Mugabe's Government, urging him to resign as President Suharto did in Indonesia last week. (AFP)

Sterility fears

Tokyo: A government study has found very low sperm activity in young Japanese men, compounding fears that industrial pollution may be affecting male fertility. Japan has a declining birthrate. (AP)

Tomb revealed

Cairo: Archaeologists have discovered a New Kingdom tomb in the Dahshur necropolis, where only Ancient Empire tombs had been found. It dates from Tutankhamun's 14th-century BC reign. (AFP)

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Clinton as judge ruling

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Clinton setback as judge follows ruling on Nixon

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton faced a critical setback to his defence last night when court documents revealed that secret grand jury evidence had persuaded a federal judge to force two top White House aides to testify about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.



Lewinsky: accused of lying about an affair

In a ruling last month, Judge Norma Holloway Johnson rejected the President's claim of executive privilege for testimony given by Bruce Lindsey, the deputy White House counsel, and Sidney Blumenthal, the political strategist. The opinion, made public only yesterday, showed for the first time that the judge made her decision based on a private presentation of evidence by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor. It is uncertain whether the White House will appeal.

Mr Starr demonstrated that the two aides alone could provide key information about the alleged 18-month affair with Ms Lewinsky, and convinced the judge that their testimony was important enough to outweigh Mr Clinton's claims of executive and attorney-client privilege on their behalf. The ruling goes to the heart of allegations that the President had a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky when she was 21 and that he later asked her to lie about it. Its publication came amid reports that Mr Clinton had rebuffed five requests to testify.

"If there were instructions

from the President to obstruct justice or efforts to suborn perjury, such actions likely took the form of conversations involving the President's closest advisers, including Lindsey and Blumenthal," wrote Judge Johnson. "If the President disclosed to a senior adviser that he committed perjury, suborned perjury or obstructed justice, such a disclosure is unlikely to be recorded on paper, but it also would constitute some of the most relevant and important evidence to the grand jury investigation."

Viewed in Washington as a significant defeat for the President, the ruling exactly followed a precedent set by the Supreme Court in ordering President Nixon to surrender the Watergate tapes in 1974. The judge repeatedly referred to the Watergate ruling and, at one point, noted "the factual similarities between the Nixon cases and the case at hand".

Several key new details also emerged in the legal papers, including that Mr Lindsey, for decades the Clintons' chief troubleshooter, has been debriefing witnesses and their lawyers after they testify in the Lewinsky case. This raised the question of whether such interviews were part of a strategy to influence the investigation improperly, a claim denied by the White House.

Judge Johnson also ruled that Mrs Clinton's conversations with the two aides could be covered by executive privilege, the first time a First Lady has been defined as a presidential assistant.

In an apparent admission in an article in the *California Lawyer*, which he later denied, William Ginsburg, the Lewinsky lawyer, seemed to admit that a sexual relationship had taken place between the President and his client.



Speaker's corner: Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, in a cave at Petra, Jordan, yesterday on his Middle East tour

'Ogling' firemen kindle anger of model agency

FROM TINKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE Elite Model Agency, New York's most fertile source of beauty, has lodged a complaint with the fire department, accusing firemen of "ogling" and "harassment" after officers made seven safety inspections in

six weeks at a flat that houses ten young models. The flat — a central pied-à-terre for visiting foreign models — was rented in March.

Following standard practice, the agency's management asked the fire department to conduct a routine safety inspection. That, allegedly, was when the trouble began.

The firemen paid their first visit last month and have returned repeatedly since then. The company that owns the flat said: "Once they found that 12-year-old and 10-year-old Elite models were living in the building, they started showing up, saying that they wanted to do an inspection."

"But how many times does it need to

be inspected? We've really been harassed."

Elite, which has set up a video camera to tape the inspections now contends that the safety visits are a pretext to oggle the girls, and has suggested that this could constitute "stalking". But the fire department is standing by its men.

Horns are locked as Pamplona goes West

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

A NEVADA town that is planning to stage a version of the Pamplona bull run has hit a wall of opposition from animal rights activists who say the scheme is "an idea from the Dark Ages".

In honour of Hemingway, a company called Running of the Bulls America Inc has won the backing of Mesquite city council to charge all-comers \$50 (£30) for the privilege of being chased down the main street by a herd of fine southwestern steers.

This week the Humane Society of America called the plan a threat to people as well as animals and "an unprecedented act of bad judgment". Undaunted, the Arizona busi-

nessman behind the plan intends to unleash his bulls on July 11.

They will not be prodded, Phil Immodino assured *The Times*, but they will be "pointed in the right direction" by a bulldozer.

Unlike Pamplona, in northern Spain, Mesquite has no narrow streets. It plans to ban the unfit and the drunk from running with the bulls, and will provide escape routes every 100ft.

While the chosen animals are capable of bursts of up to 40mph, they will not be goaded into action. "There's a good chance these bulls won't move," said Mr Immodino. "Then we're in trouble."

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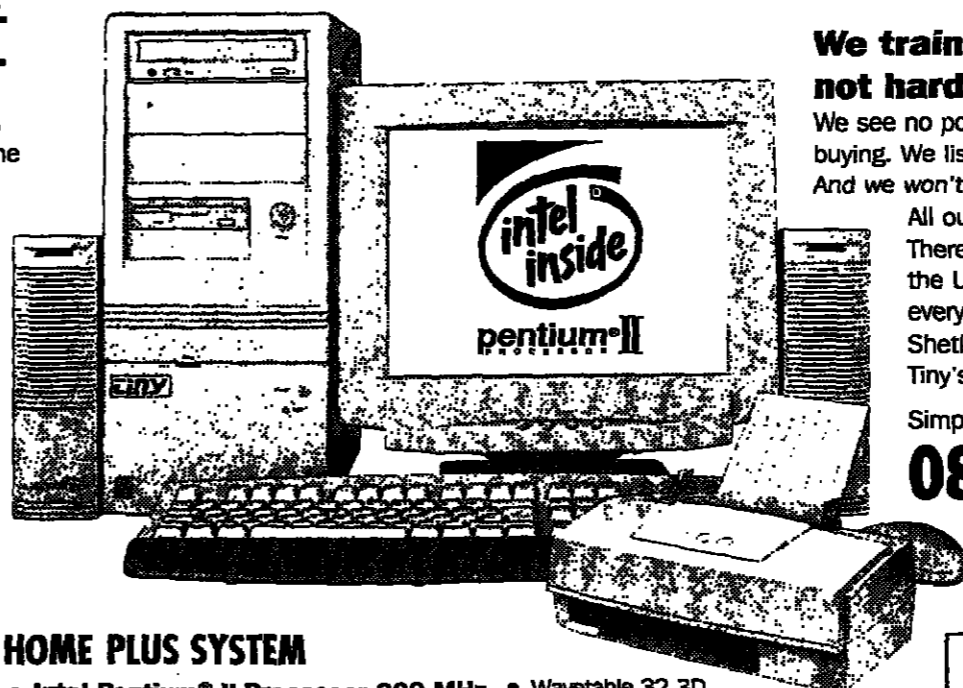
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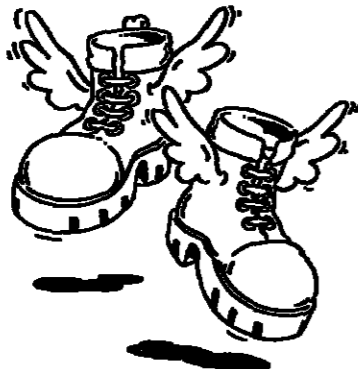
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ORIGINS SPRINKLER SYSTEM, £13.50
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FLORAL MOISTURISER SPRAY, £9.50
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L'Occitane (0171-290 1421) 7/10



TONING MIST, £18
Pleasant lavender smell, which is both refreshing and invigorating. The scent is quite strong - and be careful not to spray near the eyes.
Aveda (0171-410 1600) 8/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

It feels good to be kneaded



Helping hands: whether it involves a rub-down with 24-carat gold oil or a good pummeling, a massage should leave you de-stressed, relaxed and ready for a nap

Stressed out and tense? One remedy might be more pressure — in the form of a massage. Deborah Brett finds out how to get rubbed up the right way

LYMPH DRAINAGE MASSAGE: Nadia Nicholas aims to detoxify and activate the lymphatic system as well as promote general health through a combination of Hawaiian, Vietnamese and Chinese treatments. In a relaxing environment with calming music, a hot towel was placed under my neck and used to pull my head and neck into alignment. Then 24-carat gold oil was rubbed into my feet, legs, thighs, stomach, arms, back, face and scalp. The pressure is intense rather than painful as Nadia encourages the toxins and blocked energy passages to open.

● *Massages range from £45 to £75 at Nadia Nicholas, 273 Fulham Road, London, SW10 (0171-352 6285). 10/10*

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE: This was what most people think of as a "traditional" massage — long, flowing movements down the legs and back, kneading of the shoulders and down the spine. It was conducted in blissful silence in a room in the bowels of The Sanctuary. Very relaxing, apart from the kneading of the shoulders, which was slightly painful but did alleviate the muscle tension. I felt incredibly de-stressed at the end. The micronised marine algae carried only a slight smell, and it was not necessary to shower afterwards.

● *Members: £36.00, Non-members: £43.50. Day membership £49.50, evening membership £29.50. The Sanctuary, 12 Floral Street, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-420 5151) 8/10*

DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE: This was described as a deep tissue massage for aches and pains, and that was exactly what I needed. I was shown into a dimly lit room with soft music playing in the background. Amanda used a strong massage oil, which I could leave on overnight. She started on my shoulders as this was my most vulnerable area. She spent ages prodding and probing. At times it felt fairly painful, but I lay there thinking it could only be doing me good. Even my fingers and toes were given full attention. I left wishing that I could have this treat every week.

● *Cost: £62.50. Michaeljohn, Albermarle Street, W1 (0171-629 6969) 10/10*

NEUROTHERAPY: This ancient Indian therapy aims to restore energy balances in the body by stimulating nerves and glands. The session involves consultation about lifestyle and ailments, then gland manipulation. I lay on the floor while the therapist supported herself on the backs of two chairs and trod on different areas of my body. She applied pressure to my thighs; this released energy into my abdomen, which helps digestion. After five minutes, my liver swelled — indicating that the energy was helping it to detoxify. The next day I felt as though I was hung-over, a sign that toxins were leaving my body.

● *Cost: £60 for 55 mins at the Dorchester Spa, Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W1. Massages from £30 at other ESPA outlets (01252 741600) 8/10*

TUI NA: This traditional Chinese massage was quite different from any other I had ever experienced. It began with me sitting fully clothed on a chair while Maria massaged my neck and shoulders with her hands and elbows. Tui Na means push and grasp and involves a pummeling action on the body. After half-an-hour's work on my neck and shoulders, I felt loose, light and almost numb. I then moved to the couch, where Maria worked on the rest of my still fully clothed body. This was much more relaxing. I left feeling as though I was walking on air. I certainly felt the benefits the next day — I had much more energy, which was balanced with a new inner calm. I hadn't felt this good in ages.

● *Cost: £50. The Hale Clinic, as above (01242-592 168) 8/10*

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JOE JOSEPH

Give me a break from this coffee grind, please

I was while waiting for the man in my local corner store to hand-roast my coffee beans (picked from the northeastern terraces only of an arabica plantation in western Colombia) over a wood fire (insist on French oak saplings for best results), that I got to wondering if some lunatics haven't begun taking coffee-drinking a bit too seriously. Apparently there are even certain people who insist that the oak saplings must be more than two years old — even though this makes no known difference to the final taste of the brewed coffee (so long as the circumference of the sapling doesn't exceed 2xPi² divided by the price of March coffee futures in São Paulo). But my hunch is that coffee is about to get even more complicated. Cafés in Italy and France have been quietly serving wonderful coffee for years, only rarely giving their customers the impression

that this was an activity which — if only there were more justice in the world — would qualify for some kind of Nobel science prize. Now, suddenly, coffee is not again in London. Coffee bars haven't been this hot since before Cliff Richard was a virgin. They are so hot that Starbucks, a chain of coffee bars that has been reinventing coffee-drinking for Americans over the past few years and which has 1,500 sites across the United States, is about to unleash itself on Britain. This is probably a good thing. But when I tell you that "I just can't wait to drink a cup of Starbucks coffee", I mean that literally. I can't wait because I have several things I must do before the year is out and I'm not sure that will leave enough time to stop off at Starbucks. It can take so long, Starbucks has an incredible choice of coffee-related drinks (I'm using "incredible" here not in the sense of "mouth-watering",

but as in "possibly longer even than the Bible") and the staff will happily run through them all before taking your order. Maybe they do this because they are proud of the product. Or maybe it's because they belong to a secret doomsday sect which believes that a meteor will devastate the Earth if customers aren't made aware of all available permutations comprising hot water, milk and ground coffee beans. I have stopped off at a Starbucks only once, in California, on the way back to my hotel after having my hair cut. I asked the man at the counter for a coffee. — What type? — Um...caffè latte, please. — Tall or a double tall? — Er... — Or a latte macchiato? That's where we pour the milk in first and then the espresso. — How does the caffè latte come, then?

— That's where we pour the coffee now has wings, just like birds and aeroplanes. In coffee-talk, "with wings" means to take away (being one word shorter, using this phrase helps you to claw back some of the weeks previously lost negotiating your way around the macchiato/latte/double tall/espresso/wet (ie, with extra steamed milk)/mocha/skinny (ie with skimmed milk)/no fun (ie, decaffeinated)/cappuccino/vanilla ordering-salmon. Maybe we customers could fight back at the cash till: "How much did you say it was? £1.50? How do you want that — a pound coin, two 20p pieces and a 10p? Three 50p pieces? Or two 50p pieces and five 10p coins? Wait a second, I think I can do you one 50p, three 20p pieces, three 10p pieces and two fivepenny coins. Now do you want clean coins? Grubby coins? Any particular

do this you should know that coffee now has wings, just like birds and aeroplanes. In coffee-talk, "with wings" means to take away (being one word shorter, using this phrase helps you to claw back some of the weeks previously lost negotiating your way around the macchiato/latte/double tall/espresso/wet (ie, with extra steamed milk)/mocha/skinny (ie with skimmed milk)/no fun (ie, decaffeinated)/cappuccino/vanilla ordering-salmon. Maybe we customers could fight back at the cash till: "How much did you say it was? £1.50? How do you want that — a pound coin, two 20p pieces and a 10p? Three 50p pieces? Or two 50p pieces and five 10p coins? Wait a second, I think I can do you one 50p, three 20p pieces, three 10p pieces and two fivepenny coins. Now do you want clean coins? Grubby coins? Any particular

year you have your heart set on?" The Seattle Coffee Company, Coffee Republic and the other American pretenders that have set up here can't hold a candle to Starbucks' matrix of espresso options. That's why, when I read this week that Dr James Lane, of Duke University in North Carolina, had conducted research showing that a few extra cups of coffee each day can raise blood pressure enough to increase a person's risk of developing heart disease, it came as no surprise. Standing there, seething in those American coffee queues has that same effect on me, too. Putting it another way, I'm pleased Tony Blair has made such headway on Ireland. I was planning on going there myself later this year to knock a few heads together, but now I don't think I'll be able to get away: I'm going to be much too busy trying to get a cup of coffee.

A spy still out in the cold

Once upon a time, Michael Bettaney goose-stepped around the quadrangle of an Oxford college and played recordings of Hitler's speeches so loudly that other undergraduates could not study. Today he plods dejectedly through a dingy council estate followed by jeering children. They chorus "Russian spy" and he pretends not to notice. Soon they will start throwing stones.

There was always a tragic inevitability about the bungling traitor's fate; he had lost the plot long before being recruited by the Security Service. Twenty-five years ago those of us who were Oxford contemporaries of this eccentric, misguided ideologue saw that he was born to be isolated and unhappy in a world he never really understood.

He compensated for his painful shyness by embracing far-right politics and, briefly, cultivating a toothbrush moustache. While we grew our hair and talked of peace and love, Bettaney dressed like a bank manager and dreamt of being a stormtrooper. Freed after serving 14 years in prison for trying to pass secrets to the KGB, Bettaney, now 48, is a pale shadow of his former self. The insolent smile and strutting arrogance he displayed as an undergraduate have gone.

When we meet again he has no recollection of our time at Pembroke College: "I cannot say you look even vaguely familiar. Those years are a bit of a blank, so much has happened since... sorry." Physically, Bettaney has changed out of all recognition. His puppy fat has gone and his eyes now mirror an inner turmoil — the expression is wary and wounded; the star turn at the English tutorial has become a hunted animal. He speaks of his fear that he could be returned to jail if he speaks to the press. "I am frightened of infringing my parole conditions — I did 14 years of a 23-year sentence. There are people waiting to put me back inside if I say too much."

Bettaney no longer sees himself as a security risk. The former middle-ranking MI5 officer insists that his "professional knowledge of the Security Service is out of date

Bill Frost on an eccentric, misguided ideologue who became a bungling traitor

and useless". All he wants now is the opportunity to "chill out and get used to freedom — I just want a quiet life". He doubts that any employer would offer him a job and is, for now, content to be idle.

"Let's be realistic, nothing is coming my way after a conviction for spying. Employers need to trust their staff and my crime was the ultimate breach of faith," he says. Since his release earlier this month, he has lived with his fiancée, Marion Johnstone, at Ware, in Hertfordshire. The relationship grew after she wrote to him in jail when both were still members of the Communist Party of Great Britain. While she works, he shops, reads or works in the garden behind their council house. In the evening he walks to the end of the road to meet her.

He cannot, or will not, explain his political swing from fascism to communism. "It is all so long ago — we were so young and full of ideals." Although he undoubtedly still has information that could be damaging to MI5, the agency did not object to his early release. It was among several groups consulted by the Parole Board, which then recommended to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, that he be freed on licence. Should he say anything of his time with the service, he would have to serve the rest of his term.

"When my parole restrictions expire in January I might be able to tell a little of my story. Until then I must remain silent," he says. And what an extraordinary story Bettaney has to tell, of treachery and official incompetence punctuated with high farce. How a young man with a fondness for drink and far-right politics could have been considered suitable for the Security Service — Bettaney

was almost certainly selected as a potential MI5 officer by his late English tutor while in the florid midst of his fascist period — is inexplicable.

Joining the Security Service in 1975, Bettaney was posted to Northern Ireland — perhaps foolishly, given that he was a Roman Catholic and doubted his suitability for the job. Soon after his arrival he began drinking heavily. His parents died within a short time of each other and the intelligence officer's behaviour became ever more erratic — verbal abuse of colleagues and arrest for public drunkenness. During this period, he was drinking almost a bottle of spirits a day. His superiors failed to notice his vitriolic outbursts and by 1982 — a year before his arrest by Special Branch — he was transferred to MI5's K branch, responsible for monitoring the KGB's hierarchy in Britain just at a time when his own politics were lurching further to the militant left. A bungling spy was born.

Knowing the names and habits of senior and Soviet agents, Bettaney approached Arkady Gouk, the KGB station head in London. But his overtures were spurned; the Russians thought he was a plant. Bettaney had photographed and copied highly classified information about Irish terrorist groups and East European espionage activities. His motives were "ideological", he insisted. His treachery might have gone undetected but for Oleg Gordievsky, the former KGB double agent who tipped off MI6 that the traitor was offering information to Moscow — shoving secret documents through the letterbox at Gouk's home.

Passing sentence on Bettaney after his Old Bailey trial — most of which was held in camera — the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, said: "You would have given every possible help to the Russians, to the detriment of this country. You must be punished severely to mark the abhorrence of the crime."

During his jail term, Bettaney was kept in segregation units, first at Coldingley, in Surrey, then at Swaleside, in Kent. "My time in prison was spent in conditions that



Haunted spook: "My crime was the ultimate breach of faith," says Michael Bettaney

were strange, in conditions of isolation. I managed to survive, but only with the help of my friends and Marion."

His prison now is a drab council house, and Bettaney is still in isolation of a sort. His days are spent alone — too much time on his hands, waiting for his fiancée to return home. Could he revisit Oxford, exorcise some of the ghosts that haunted him then and

continue to plague him today? "No, it is all too fresh and my betrayal of trust will not be easily forgotten. The only place I plan to visit is the labour exchange. I need to work, to have something to do." Marion Johnstone takes his hand and they walk to the front door. "I am so sorry I cannot remember you. Everything is so very vague in my mind," he says before closing his front door on the world.

Why not let the child benefit?

Valerie Grove suggests a new way to allocate the allowance

The Blairs have been rumbled for collecting their child benefit — or having it delivered, the middle-class way, into Cherie's bank account. I find this mildly hilarious.

In her book *The Sceptical Feminist*, the philosopher Janet Radcliffe Richards asked the crucial question: of what value are children? People may want them, but does the State? An automatic benefit just for having children, irrespective of whether the children were in need, was unjustifiable, she concluded.

Universal child benefit has never been universally satisfactory — not enough to lift the poor out of poverty, a source of guilt and gratification to the well-off, ignored by a pious few — but whenever mean-testing has been suggested, it has been "too expensive, too complicated" to administer.

I live opposite the hideous Eleanor Rathbone House, built in 1969, and am daily aware that it was Eleanor, unmarried and childless, who fought doggedly in the 1930s to introduce family allowances. Having worked in the Liverpool slums, she wanted to relieve the mothers' care-worn and sunless lives. By 1945, she had achieved her aim, but was dismayed that the allowance was only five shillings, and not payable for the first child.

Today the first child, rightly assumed to be the life-changing one for parents, receives £11.45 and the others £9.30 each. It was in the 1970s that the allowance was made payable directly to mothers, to stop fathers squandering it in

the pub. I have seen many mothers exchange it in the sub-post office for cigarettes: that's their choice.

Frank Field asked in *The Times* the other day, how do you spend your child benefit? He said he had heard (he himself is childless) that some spend it on champagne. Instead of abolition or mean-testing, he "dared" to propose a third way: making benefit more generous, but taxing it.

But there is a fourth way, one that would prevent taxation: bypass the parent and make sure the beneficiary is the child. Vouchers have often been suggested — exchangeable for such things as nappies, shoes, nourishing food. My own way is to sail away these small but significant sums each week until the child finishes school. I opened National Savings accounts for each child at birth, unbreachable until they are 18. By then each account (interest now 6 per cent) will contain, with top-ups, about £15,000, which will help them through the blessed gap year and the following three years without student loans or total indigence.

While the State may not want to encourage procreation, it does want to encourage responsibility and providence, and positively insists that each child aims for tertiary education, which not every parent can afford. If the benefit became an investment on each child's behalf, every 18-year-old would have the means to start, and no parent could whinge about tuition fees while quaffing champagne and 18-year-olds would find the playing field would be more level.

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CHANGING TIMES



THE PAKISTAN FALLOUT

Outrage is not enough to halt the threat of war

Five more nuclear devices were detonated in the sub-continent yesterday, spreading shockwaves of anger and alarm across the globe and triggering further sharp cuts in Western aid to millions of people whose future has been mortgaged by their leaders. The Pakistan tests hardly came as a surprise: ever since India detonated its own bomb, the domestic pressure on Nawaz Sharif's Government to respond in kind has been intense. Islamabad virtually announced that it was going ahead by its alarmist and mendacious warning on Wednesday that India was about to attack. Delhi, now counting the huge moral and political cost of its adventurism, did its best to goad Pakistan, hoping that a Pakistani test would retrospectively justify the Government's action to voters at home and break India's moral and political isolation. Foolishly, Pakistan played into Indian hands.

The world has responded with predictable frustration. President Clinton, personally rebuffed after repeated attempts to counsel caution, said he had no choice but to impose the same sanctions ordered on India. Japan and Germany announced the suspension in aid programmes, and many other donors will follow suit. Significantly, China, the country that for years has armed Pakistan and even encouraged its nuclear ambitions, voiced "deep regret" and raised the spectre of a deadly new arms race in South Asia.

Nawaz Sharif anticipated all this. He also knew that Pakistan, with an economy only a tenth of India's and already in deep trouble, can afford a suspension of vital development aid far less than its neighbour. He knew that he was throwing away the chance of increased American aid, a position of moral superiority and the opportunity to halt the spiral of recrimination and retaliation. Yet he argued that Pakistan's vital security

demand a nuclear response. In doing so he rode roughshod over the real interests of his impoverished countrymen. And he underlined the frailty of Pakistan's own cohesion, which is increasingly determined solely by enmity to India.

In both capitals there has been a cacophony of injured self-justification. Each government, scarcely in full command, has courted short-term domestic popularity with nationalist gestures. Yet each has felt the need for a figleaf to cover its belligerent posturing. India has offered a treaty of no first use of nuclear weapons; Pakistan, within hours of its tests, said it was ready to discuss all outstanding issues, including a non-aggression pact.

These offers, insincere and hedged around as they might be, should be immediately taken up. For the next stage of this deadly cycle is far more alarming: the race to arm newly developed long-range missiles with nuclear warheads. For the moment the two countries will pause, to take stock of each other and the whirlwind they have unleashed. Washington has little leverage in the region. But collectively the big powers do. And their collective determination to stop a nuclear arms race was made vigorously clear at the recent Birmingham summit of the Group of Eight. Now, therefore, is the time for the eight countries that account for most of the trade, aid, arms exports and political influence in the sub-continent, to involve themselves. They should appoint a political negotiator to visit the region. Canada, a fellow Commonwealth country and passionate advocate of arms control, is the best placed. A senior Canadian should now visit Delhi and Islamabad to attempt the first step at de-escalation, including discussion of Kashmir. Outrage is not enough to halt the threat of a new war.

ROT UNDER THE ROUBLE

How to inoculate Russia against the Asian disease

Russia's determination to defend the rouble is not in doubt. Nor is the determination of America, Germany and the International Monetary Fund to help it to do so. For all parties, a stable rouble makes political as well as financial sense. A steep rouble devaluation would be catastrophic. The restoration of confidence in the currency has been a slow and hard-fought battle and the key to bringing down inflation. For Russians, this is the single universally felt benefit of reform. There would be a huge political backlash if hyperinflation were again to threaten people's savings.

Foreign investors, who despite their misgivings are still heavily present in Russian equity markets, would pull their remaining money out. Many Russian banks, unable to service an estimated \$15 billion in foreign borrowings, would be pushed to the edge of insolvency, or even over the precipice. Russia's hopes of economic growth would be dead in the water.

But Russia cannot afford to defend the rouble through keeping interest rates sky-high. At interest rates of 25 per cent, servicing government debt consumes about a quarter of state spending. At anywhere near Wednesday's emergency 150 per cent, the costs would pierce the stratosphere. Russia's allies have every interest in helping it to weather the latest storm; it would cost far less in bridging loans and some debt restructuring to stave off collapse than would be required if market reforms were derailed in conditions of extreme political instability.

But there should be tough conditions attached to any rope thrown Moscow's way. It is high time the Kremlin got serious about balancing the books by methods other than borrowing. There are only two ways to do this: cutting spending and raising revenues. Reforms are in train. Moscow has agreed with the IMF plans to prune spending this year by 2 per cent of GDP. These would cut more than 200,000 civil service jobs, which will be hugely unpopular and may represent a theoretical rather than actual budgetary saving, since thousands of public sector employees are currently paid months late or

not at all. Increasing revenue is at least as important; and with oil prices severely depressed, that depends on collecting taxes.

At 18.3 per cent of GDP last year, government spending in Russia is in fact not that high; but 1997 tax revenues were a mere 10.8 per cent—half what they should be, and a smaller proportion of wealth than many poor countries manage to haul in. Boris Nemtsov, whose record on reforms commands respect, has issued an ultimatum to the big utilities to pay up. Their compliance will be an important test of the new Government's authority over the cronies capitalists who dominate these sectors. But the priority must be to get the Government's simpler, fairer new tax code through the Duma. There are reasons why the Russian system depends almost exclusively on corporate taxes: the tax collection system is simply not equipped to gather personal income taxes, let alone VAT—and there is profound public resistance to paying personal taxes when pensions go unpaid and services such as education and health are starved of cash. But corporate taxes must be simplified, if the current compliance rate of 17 per cent of companies is to improve, and coupled with a streamlining of the regulations that make businessmen instinctive avoiders of the law.

Tax reform is politically vital because it is a precondition for reducing an estimated \$9 billion in wage arrears, a social injustice which has done more than anything to erode public support for market reforms. It is a necessary step towards reviving the basic functions of the State. Over the past six years, Russia has done much to dismantle the command economy, privatising and liberalising trade; but little to convert an unprofessional and corrupt bureaucracy into a just, effective public sector capable of providing core services, enforcing anti-monopoly laws and fighting crime. President Yeltsin is seen, with some reason, as too close to the rich industrial and financial carpetbaggers who thrive on a dysfunctional State. As an emerging market, Russia is inescapably vulnerable to Asian flu: a speedy course of inoculation is urgent.

PASS THE KETCHUP

The food prigs have squashed tomatoes and stew on their faces

Dietitians may have red faces today. It seems they have been talking a load of old tomy rot. For years the British, so malign for a ketchup and chips cuisine, have been encouraged to turn to healthier foods. Processed products, it was said, were nutritionally unsound. A nation was encouraged to turn against its traditions, and crunch its way dutifully through crudites.

But "chops and tomato sauce" were just what Dickens ordered. And now it seems the doctors do, too. Yesterday a group of them met at the Royal Society of Medicine in London to examine evidence suggesting that lycopene, the pigment which makes tomatoes red, can reduce risk of heart disease and cancer. In raw tomatoes this lycopene remains trapped under the skin of the fruit. But processing breaks up the cells and makes it much easier for the body to absorb. Ketchup is the source of a healthy heart. So are tomato soups, purées and pizza toppings.

It is 400 years since the tomato was introduced to Europe—an Andean cousin of the native deadly nightshade. It took its time from the Aztec tomato. But in those

They believed it to be poisonous and so the tomato was cultivated simply as an ornamental plant. Only in 1820, after a Colonel Johnson had demonstrated its edibility by eating one raw in front of an astounded Salem audience, did it start to catch on as a food. Since it requires relatively warm weather and much sunlight to ripen, it became chiefly a feature of the Mediterranean diet.

But in recent years there has been a red revolution in Britain. Humble *Lycopersicon* now comes in a bewildering array of forms. Beef, plum and cherry; baked, boiled and devilled; in stews and sauces, sun-dried or hickory-smoked. Catching on to a River Café school of *cucina rustica*, a nation has been lured into angiospermal indulgence. The rise of pizza and pasta are making the British a healthier race. Yet still it has been commonly believed that raw food was better, that we had to swallow our old habits whole, that fresh fruit and vegetables were the key to a better diet. How convenient then to find out that it is ketchup with everything, that pureed pleasure comes straight from the tube. A healthy dinner is only the twist of a rin-nerer or a trip to a takeaway, away. The

هكذا من الأصل

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Danger in fashion Assemblies and worship in schools

From the Chief Executive of the Electoral Reform Society and the Director of the Constitution Unit

Sir, While we cannot accept all Michael Pinto-Duschinsky's criticisms of referendums (article, "Don't be a Bonaparte, Mr Blair", May 26), he does, like your leading article today, raise important issues.

In 1996 the Electoral Reform Society and the Constitution Unit set up an independent "Commission on the Conduct of Referendums" under the chairmanship of Sir Patrick Nairne. The commission stressed the importance of establishing clear guidelines to ensure fairness in the conduct of referendums; and drafted a set of guidelines to that end which cover all the issues you raise.

The commission recommended that, to keep the organisation and administration of referendums independent of government and party-political interests, an independent statutory commission should be established. If an electoral commission were to be established, as has been promised by Labour in the past, then the functions of a "referendum commission" should be brought within its remit.

With referendums on the voting system and European monetary union in the not-too-distant future, the Government should move to introduce some badly needed ground rules to maximise confidence in the legitimacy of their results.

Yours sincerely,
KEN RITCHIE,
Chief Executive, Electoral Reform Society,
ROBERT HAZELL,
Director, The Constitution Unit,
Electoral Reform Society,
6 Chancel Street,
Blackfriars, SE1 0UU,
May 28.

Defence of unpaid charity workers

From the Executive Director of CSV (Community Service Volunteers)

Sir, Apparently Mr Guy Stratford, author of the Bow Group's report, *What Gets Measured Gets Done*, believes charity volunteers to be "well-meaning but incompetent" (details, May 26). He should widen his experience.

Charities benefit hugely from the skills and experience of volunteers. For example, CSV's retired and senior volunteer programme relies on the expertise of 5,000 volunteers, all over 50 and many of whom have held senior management positions in blue-chip companies. Many successful and effective organisations have been started by volunteers, whose contribution and achievements often go unrecognised.

Organisations which involve volunteers have a responsibility to ensure that their talents are used effectively, and that they receive appropriate support. This does not make volunteers "difficult to manage". It simply means that, in return for giving their time, they should be offered challenging and meaningful opportunities.

Might it not be better to identify ways to tackle social problems by channelling volunteers' energy, instead of criticising people who bring enthusiasm and skills to hard-pressed public and charitable organisations?

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH HOODLESS,
Executive Director,
CSV (Community Service Volunteers),
237 Pentonville Road, N1 9NJ,
May 26.

Emperor's 'sorrow'

From Sir Hugh Cortazzi

Sir, Simon Jenkins's article, "A time to forgive" (May 27), was the best I have read on the tribulations of the former prisoners of war.

As one who started to study Japanese 55 years ago, I listened to the Emperor speaking in Japanese at the Queen's banquet on May 26 and was impressed by the sincerity of his feelings for those who suffered. The official translation seemed to me to be fair and justified.

The impression created by the critics is that they are deliberately attempting to justify their own discourtesy by mischievous distortions. Ambassador Chiba is a good friend of Britain and his remarks were not, as alleged by Mr Keith Martin (report, May 28), "arrogant and condescending".

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CORTAZZI
(Ambassador to Japan, 1980-84),
16 Hamilton Close,
London NW8 8QY,
May 28.

Duty-free in EU

From Mr Gordon Hafter

Sir, I'm glad to note from your report today that EU ministers are paying no attention to the letter on intra-EU duty-free facilities from Lord Sterling of Plaistow and others (May 18), written on behalf of the Duty Free Federation.

Their letter fails to mention that the majority of cross-border travel within the EU is by car, bus, train, bicycle or on foot. Why should the minority who travel by air or ferry be subsidised by the majority who enjoy no duty-free facilities?

Only in the case of Great Britain, Ireland, Sweden and Finland do the

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majority of people have to use a ferry or a plane to travel abroad. Eurostar would have captured an even greater share of the UK-France/Belgium traffic than it has if it was able to offer the same duty-free facilities as the airlines or ferries.

Cinema soundtracks

From Mr James R. Usher

Sir, Your report, "Cinema soundtracks blast audiences out of seats" (May 21), highlights the problems faced by the many people for whom excessive noise is more than a social irritant. My father has suffered from Meniere's disease for 15 years. Sufferers from this condition, like those suffering from tinnitus, live with a permanent noise in the ear and cannot tolerate any loud or high-pitched sound.

The BBC's film critic, Barry Norman, says that he threatens to leave the cinema if the decibel level is not reduced. Those made ill by excessive levels cannot even contemplate visiting cinemas or anywhere else that plays loud music.

Your report suggests that only the over-30s suffer. I am 25 and visit the cinema regularly. I often find soundtracks unnecessarily loud. Complaints usually fall on deaf ears (surprising if they watch a lot of films).

Yours faithfully,
J. R. USHER,
31 Babbacon Road,
Penketh, Warrington,
Cheshire WA5 2PX.

Health hazards

From Mr William J. Woodward

Sir, Professor Sir Kenneth Stuart highlights (letter, May 19) government inactivity in legislating against boxing and passive smoking.

Both of these things are hazards which people choose to expose themselves to despite the current perceived wisdom of their danger, which he refers to as "the known facts".

I am more concerned about those areas where people have no choice and yet are subject, according to perceived wisdom, to equal or greater hazard. Emissions from petrol and diesel engines in city centres, the indiscriminate use of herbicides and pesticides in agriculture, for instance.

Surely government should legislate against those dangers to the public health which the public cannot avoid, beyond restricting the freedom of choice of those people who choose to participate in the noble art or visit public houses that allow smoking.

Yours etc,
W. J. WOODWARD,
Kaadan,
High Easter Road,
Leaden Roding, Dunmow,
Essex CM6 1QF,
bill_woodward@email.msn.com

Headlight flashing

From Mr W. H. R. Jones

Sir, I have been a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists for more than 40 years and last month successfully took their "voluntary reassessment test". I raised with the examiner the question of flashing headlights (letters, May 22 and 27), which has become, in my view, a convenient, quiet and safe way to indicate courteously that the driver flashed at you, eg. join or turn across a queue of cars, and is widely accepted and used as such. The IAM has forwarded to the Driving Standards Agency a letter from me to that effect.

My examiner agreed with me.

Yours sincerely,
BILL JONES,
Greensleeves, Belle Vue Lane,
Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7EJ,
May 22.

From Mr Ormond Uren

Sir, The French have a further use for flashing headlights. If a number of cars coming towards you are flashing their headlights for no apparent reason, it is because they are warning you of a speed trap up ahead.

Unfortunately the police are also aware of this practice and it is punishable by an on-the-spot fine, as a friend of mine once discovered to her cost.

Yours truly,
ORMOND UREN,
16 Brookfield Park, NWS 1ER,
ormond.uren@virgin.net

From Mr E. J. Banister

Sir, Unlike the Dean of Chester, I find that the flashing of car headlights normally means the driver cannot find the indicator or windscreen wipers.

Yours faithfully
EDWARD BANISTER,
Derwent College,
University of York, YO1 5DD,
ejb102@york.ac.uk
May 22.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 28: The Emperor and the Empress of Japan this morning visited the Royal Botanic Gardens. Kew, were received by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (the Viscount Bledington)...



Primrose Worthington, grand-daughter of W.G. Grace, with a bust of the great man, after opening an exhibition at Lord's yesterday to mark the 150th anniversary of his birth

W G remembered by his grand-daughter

AN EXHIBITION to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Dr W.G. Grace, one of the greatest of all cricketers, was opened at Lord's yesterday by his 93-year-old grand-daughter, Mrs Primrose Worthington. He taught her to play the game in his garden at Mottingham, South London...

Memorial services

Mr P.B. (Laddie) Lucas A memorial service for Mr P.B. (Laddie) Lucas was held yesterday at St Luke's, Sydney Street. The Rev Christopher Kevell-Davies officiated, assisted by the Rev David Brown, Senior Chaplain of the Royal Marsden NHS Trust...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.J. Banks and Miss L.F. Ballard The engagement is announced between Philip John, son of Mr and Mrs John Banks of Retford, and Laura Ellen, daughter of the late Mr Anthony Ballard, and step-daughter of Professor Edward Collins, of Reading.

Marriages

Mr K.A. Carter and Mrs G. Woolley The marriage took place on Friday, May 22 between Ken Carter and Gillian Woolley. Mr T. Cheevers-Trench and Mrs R. Osborne. The marriage took place on April 2, 1998 between Mr Tim Cheevers-Trench and Mrs Riva Osborne.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Charles II, reigned 1660-85, London, 1630; John Walker, inventor of the friction match, Stockton-on-Tees, 1781; Isaac Albani, composer, Chambray, France, 1804; G.K. Chesterton, writer, London, 1874; T.H. White, novelist, Bombay, 1906; Tenzing Norgay, Himalayan climber, 1914; John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th American President, 1917-63, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1917.

Agion College

Agion College, the British multicultural school in Switzerland, is pleased to announce that their Board of Governors has now been joined by Dr Jeffrey Jones and Mr Richard Poulton. Dr Jones is Principal Lecturer/Research Coordinator at the School of Education, University of Wolverhampton. Mr Poulton was Head Master of Wylliffe College, Gloucestershire, from 1980-86.

Service dinner

Advanced Class Dinner Club Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Advanced Class Dinner Club held last night in Woolwich. Lieutenant-General E.F.G. Burton, president of the club, was in the chair.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 28: The Emperor and the Empress of Japan this morning visited the Royal Botanic Gardens. Kew, were received by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (the Viscount Bledington)...

Royal engagements

Prince Edward, patron, will attend a concert given by the London Mozart Players at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, at 8.00. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Logistic Corps, will visit Dalton Barracks, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, at 10.00; and will attend a WRVS tea party at the barracks at 2.15 to mark their diamond jubilee.

University news

Cambridge Corpus Christi College Mr Neil Vickery elected into an A Fellowship under Statute 21. Sir Colin St John Wilson into an Honorary Fellowship.

BIRTHS

CHADWICK - On 20th May, 1998, to Jennifer Dale and Michael, a daughter, Jamie Laura, a sister for Oliver. CRAWFORD - On May 22nd 1998 to Jackie and David, a son, James Alexander, a brother for Anna, Naomi and Megan. Mrs Mary thanks all who attended at Westham Park Hospital.

DEATHS

ARTHUR Allan James Vincent MBE DL, on 22nd May 1998 suddenly at home aged 82. Beloved husband of Dawn, much loved father of Gordon, Charles, Susan and Diana, and adored grandfather. Private funeral. Burial at St John's Church, Chelmsford. Donations to Chelmsford YMCA, c/o Graham Nutt, Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NZ.

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THE TIMES OBITUARIES. A vertical column of text on the right side of the page, containing obituary notices and other small advertisements.

OBITUARIES

BILL BOWMAN

Bill Bowman, CBE, chairman of the Covent Garden Market Authority, died of cancer on May 11 aged 65. He was born on October 22, 1932.

Bill Bowman was a businessman of the old school who put people first. As chairman of the Covent Garden Market Authority he was steadfast in his support of the traders who occupy the Vauxhall site in South London, and was the first chairman of the authority to know most of them by name.

He acknowledged that supermarkets' direct buying was bound to reduce the number of fruit and vegetable wholesalers, but he was convinced that he could fill the gap by expanding into the wider reaches of catering, offering traders a base from which to supply hotels, restaurants, schools and airlines.

manoeuvring could not persuade the Corporation of London to part with its meat market. Born in Leeds, William Powell Bowman was a Yorkshireman through and through. He was educated at Uppingham and in 1953, after National Service in the RAF, he joined the family business, Goodall Backhouse, makers of Yorkshire relish and other pungent sauces designed to sharpen the dull cuisine of postwar Britain.

Cast adrift in the grocery trade, Bowman was snapped up by Cheeseboro Ponds, where he sold cosmetic creams for two years before being headhunted by Dorland Advertising, the family firm of Hector Laing, later Lord Laing of Dunphail. At this turning point in his career, Bowman found himself in charge of the McVitie's account just at the time when Laing was engineering the merger of McVitie's, Crawford and MacFarlane Lang to form United Biscuits.

His great achievement was to establish the company in Japan, where on one occasion his infectious enthusiasm for his product earned a standing ovation from an audience of sales delegates who turned out to be engineers. Redirected to the correct meeting, Bowman repeated his perfor-



Bowman helped vegetable wholesalers to meet the challenge of the supermarkets

ance to even greater acclaim. But it was his last job with United Biscuits, as group personnel and public affairs director during the cutback years of the Thatcher revolution, that proved Bowman's worth as a conciliator, able to defuse any dispute with good humour and sympathy. With factories

closing and redundancies at record levels, morale nonetheless remained high in the company, where employees could be sure of a fair deal. The healthcare scheme he introduced, one of the first of its kind, benefited a workforce of more than 40,000. Bowman's energetic in-

volvement in the British Export Council and the Overseas Trade Board led to his becoming founder chairman of the British Food Export Council, for which he was appointed OBE in 1972. He was also chairman of the Flowers and Plants Association. The charitable cause dearest to his heart

STEFAN SOBONIEWSKI

Stefan Soboniewski, former president of the Polish Combatants Association, died on May 7 aged 91. He was born on December 7, 1906.

WHEN the Second World War ended Stefan Soboniewski was unable to return to what soon became communist Poland. He came back to Britain, where the Government had set up a Resettlement Corps for Polish combatants. He became a founder member and later president of the Polish Combatants Association, helping ex-servicemen to assimilate into civilian life.

Stefan Soboniewski was born in a small village near Warsaw in what was then Russian Poland. He graduated in law from Warsaw University, and embarked on a career first in the legal department of the Ministry of Public Works and then at the Ministry of the Interior.

With the outbreak of war this career was cut short. By now married, he was forced to leave his country and his family and, travelling illegally via Romania, he joined that part of the Polish Army in France which had survived the defeat of September 1939.

where he joined the Polish Tank Brigade. From there, he went to fight in the Italian campaign, participating in the Battle of Cassino.

After the war, his diplomatic skills, energy and tenacity made him the ideal leader for Polish ex-servicemen, giving help and guidance to members of a community not only ground down by loss and separation, but despairing of seeing their homeland again. He was at the forefront of the campaign for an independent Poland, which he was finally able to revisit after the fall of communism.

In the meantime he had forged links with the British media and Establishment, and so it was that the Anglo-Polish Society was born. He enlisted the help of parliamentarians such as Lord Barnby and Sir Frederic Bennett, without whom the Katyn Memorial, which stands in Gornersbury Cemetery, could not have been erected. It commemorates the massacre of 15,000 Polish officers shot on Stalin's orders.

Soboniewski and Bennett went on to set up the Katyn Association, which strove to keep alive the memory of the victims by putting up similar monuments and plaques on sites around the world. He was a moving force in the successful campaign to exempt Poles from the need to hold visas to come to Britain.

But the achievement of which he was most proud was the building of a housing complex at Penrhos in North Wales as a sanctuary for elderly and retired Poles. His wife Jadwiga, a dental surgeon, predeceased him. He is survived by a married daughter.

PROFESSOR TONY GLENISTER

Professor Tony Glenister, CBE, anatomist and military medical adviser, died on May 1 aged 74. He was born on December 19, 1923.



Glenister: leadership in both military and medical life

TONY GLENISTER'S career in academic medicine ran in parallel with an involvement in military medical matters, in which he was an expert. As an anatomist, he was an excellent teacher who encouraged his students to acquire a basic knowledge of the subject while maintaining a real sense of reverence. As an Army officer he had qualities of leadership which were reflected in his role as dean of one of London's best-known medical schools.

Born in Antwerp, Tony William Alphonse Glenister was brought up in Belgium until shortly before the war, when his family moved to England. He was educated at Eastbourne College and St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, where he qualified in 1947. Having completed his house posts, he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1948, before becoming lecturer and reader in anatomy at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, an institution

he was to serve for 39 years. His thesis on the embryology of emperor penguins earned him his PhD in 1955, and he was awarded his DSc in 1963. He rose to be Profes-

sor of Embryology in the University of London in 1967, head of the department of anatomy at Charing Cross in 1970, and Dean of the Medical School there in 1976.

Medical education in London then underwent significant changes, consequent upon those in the National Health Service and particularly at Charing Cross Hospital, which had recently been re-established on a new site in Fulham Palace Road. Professor Glenister served there as an honorary consultant in clinical anatomy and genetics and as a member of the Charing Cross and West London Hospitals special trustees.

He played a key role in the negotiations that resulted in the merger of the Charing Cross Hospital and Westminster medical schools in 1984, and was appointed its Dean until his retirement in 1989, when the University of London conferred the title of professor emeritus upon him. The leadership skills gained from his army life fitted Tony Glenister well for the administrative and sometimes political role that he found himself fulfilling at a time of great significance in the developing medical school, where a lecture hall bearing his name is his memorial. Throughout his academic life he promoted his subject by research and his various publications, the most significant being a *Textbook of*

Human Anatomy, of which he was co-author.

Glenister never lost sight of the Army. He joined the Territorials in 1950, rising to the rank of brigadier. From 1957 to 1958 he commanded 144 (1st Home Counties) Field Ambulance TA and from 1964 to 1967 he served as assistant director medical services of 44 (Home Counties) Division. During the four following years he commanded 217 (London) General Hospital RAMC(V) and was instrumental in having that unit adopted by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, of which he was Master in 1991. His appointment as Honorary Colonel 220 (1st Home Counties) Field Ambulance RAMC(V) in 1973 was quickly followed by that of TAVR Adviser to the Director-General of Army Medical Services from 1976 to 1979, with particular responsibility for advising on the treatment of casualties of nuclear war. He was appointed CBE (milit) in 1979.

Glenister was a Member of the Order of St John, a Freeman of the City of London, and a Knight Commander of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem - for which he spared no effort to obtain much-needed medical equipment. In retirement he continued as a member of the General Medical and Dental Councils until 1993. A devout Roman Catholic, he was on the board of trustees of *The Tablet*. A ready listener, he gave advice with unfailing courtesy to colleagues and students alike, and his wise counsel as a member of successive health authorities was greatly appreciated. His love of the countryside and of history were reflected in his fellowships of the Zoological Society and the Royal Society of Arts.

He had known his wife, Monique, since childhood. They married in 1948, but she died two years ago. He is survived by their four sons.

ROBERT MULLER

Robert Muller, journalist, playwright, novelist and screenwriter, died on May 27 aged 72. He was born on September 1, 1925.



Muller always felt himself to be an outsider in Britain

ROBERT MULLER was a prolific journalist and gifted writer. He was responsible for many successful adaptations for TV, both BBC and ITV. He adapted Emile Zola, Isaac Asimov, Sobhennsyn, Heinrich Mann (*Man of Straw*) and Arthur Schnitzler (*Vienna 1900*). A master of Gothic horror, he also wrote many original plays as well as several novels.

He was born in Hamburg to a Jewish mother and a Christian father. Growing up in Nazi Germany, where racial laws dubbed him a *Mischling* (of mixed blood), he was unacceptable to the Aryan Nazis, banished to a Jewish school and suffered all the indignities that the early Hitler regime inflicted upon the Jewish population.

He used these experiences vividly in his novel *The World That Summer*, which he wrote originally in English. This describes the split loyalties of his 11-year-old leading character - a *Mischling* like the author - during 1936, the year the Olympics were staged in Berlin. He writes of the boy's fear that his guilty secret might be discovered - and of his longing to be like the other boys and join the Hitler Youth. On every page there is a sense of being a misfit. This feeling pervaded his own life, like that of so many other refugees.

Aware that there was no future for his son in Germany, his father - a Viennese theatre designer - packed him off on a *Kindertransport* to England, where he arrived in 1938. He always paid full tribute to all the kindness shown to him, but felt he could never quite lose the feeling of being regarded as a "bloody foreigner" - which in the plural became the title of his

last television series, tracing the fortunes of several young refugees like himself. First working for *Time-Life* and *Picture Post*, the young Muller was soon recruited by *TV*, both BBC and ITV. He adapted Emile Zola, Isaac Asimov, Sobhennsyn, Heinrich Mann (*Man of Straw*) and Arthur Schnitzler (*Vienna 1900*). A master of Gothic horror, he also wrote many original plays as well as several novels.

After some years as a journalist, he was tempted in to screenwriting at the suggestion and with the encouragement of Sydney Newman, the producer of ABC's *Armchair Theatre*. Initially writing about his theatre days (*Afternoon of a Nymph*), he later investigated subjects such as *Nazism (Night Conspirators)*, before emerging as a dramatist and adaptor of classics. Although he retained little love for his native land, by the 1980s he found himself working more and more in Germany, as both novelist and screenwriter. Some 20 years after writing his first novel, *The World That Summer*, he translated it into German. (Once published, it was made into a film and even became a

textbook for use in schools.) His return to Germany was also prompted by a desperate need to find his roots, to learn about the fate of his family - especially his maternal grandmother whom he had loved as a child, a love that never left him. He discovered that they were all murdered. Revealingly, his last play - written in white heat and as yet unpublished - is about an old man, a refugee, vainly searching for his roots. Hamburg honoured him by making him a Freeman of the City.

Muller was twice married. For some years he lived in the Isle of Man with his first wife Eileen, but this marriage was dissolved in the mid-1960s. He then met and married the actress Billie Whitelaw, and they became a devoted couple. Robert Muller, who had been ill for some time after both heart surgery and a stroke, was a warm and generous man, loyal, good company and a good host and cook. His wife survives him, together with their son, Matthew, and two daughters, Sophie and Claire, from his previous marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE
CORPORATE HOSPITALITY
FLATS/SHARES

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
LIGHTSEEKERS
DELTA WORLDWIDE

JETLINE
FARESAVERS
Jetworld
FLIGHTWISE

ANNOUNCEMENTS
EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY
COMBAT STRESS
CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS
The British Kidney Patient Association

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT ON THIS DAY
A JUDGE'S EXPERIENCE IN CHICAGO
May 29, 1930
Judge Kavanaugh, of Chicago, gave evidence before the Select Committee on the Capital Punishment Bill, at the House of Commons yesterday.

NEWS

Pakistan defiant over nuclear tests

Pakistan "settled the score" with India by exploding five nuclear devices, proclaiming itself the first Islamic nuclear power and stepping up the arms race between two of the world's most bitter enemies.

The underground tests in the Baluchistan desert were conducted in defiance of world leaders who had begged Pakistan not to respond to similar tests in India earlier this month — and brought immediate reprisals in the form of economic sanctions.

Diana anniversary plans

The two families of Diana, Princess of Wales, have decided to commemorate the first anniversary of her death by holding separate memorial services in private at Balmoral and the Spencers' ancestral home at Althorp.

Aid appeals under fire

Clare Short gave a warning of compassion fatigue and urged international aid groups to end "unbearable" humanitarian appeals which made people "flinch and turn away".

Continental stealth

Labour's policy on Europe has far more public support than the Tories' Eurosceptic stance, according to the latest MORI poll for The Times.

Adams seeks dollars

Gerry Adams held court at the New York Stock Exchange, seeking financial support from Wall Street to open an office for Sinn Féin in London.

Exams 'bonus' urged

Teachers should face annual assessments that take account of pupils' exam results to qualify for substantial performance bonuses, a head teachers' leader said.

Young at heart

A schoolgirl who had been earning pocket money by operating mobile phone calls, he decided to dump her — in spectacularly literal, rather than metaphorical, fashion — over a wall into the Thames.

Indonesian overhaul

Indonesia's political leaders started work on complete reform of the electoral system so that the country's first free elections can be held next year.

Love on the rocks

When Liam Devine's girlfriend interrupted their date by taking mobile phone calls, he decided to dump her — in spectacularly literal, rather than metaphorical, fashion — over a wall into the Thames.

Gay exonerated

German homosexuals and deserters sentenced in Nazi courts were exonerated by a large parliamentary majority.

Health in the red

Britain's growing appetite for an "Italian diet" of pizza, pasta and tomato sauce could be making us a healthier nation, together with — though preferably not on the same plate — chips generously doused in ketchup.

Nato on Kosovo alert

Nato Foreign Ministers gave warning that the alliance was ready to send troops to prevent the conflict in the Serbian province of Kosovo from spilling across borders.

Insurers warned

Medical insurers were told to simplify their products or face regulation.

Clinton setback

Court documents disclosed that secret grand jury evidence had persuaded a federal judge to force two important White House aides to testify about President Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Primate-time television

Female chimpanzees are more likely to become television addicts than males. A study at Edinburgh Zoo, using videos compiled from David Attenborough documentaries on chimpanzees, found that the males continued to search for food or wandered around scratching while the females were happy to settle down in front of the small screen.



Hooked on art: a head moulded from coat hangers caught a visitor's eye yesterday during a preview of the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition, which opens to the public from June 2 to August 16. The head was created by David Mach

BUSINESS

Russia: The battered financial markets stabilised as the International Monetary Fund hinted that it would make a \$670 million loan available soon.

SPORT

Football: Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, was ruled out of the World Cup after a scan confirmed that he had damaged his left hamstring and would need at least two weeks to recover.

ARTS

Trouble brewing: Eduardo de Filippo's Neapolitan domestic drama, Saturday, Sunday... and Monday, is revived for the opening treat of the Chichester season.

FEATURES

There's the rub: Six massage methods tried and tested, from traditional Chinese Tui Na to Indian neurotherapy.

IN A JAM

The Automobile Association is to consider reforming its constitution in response to members who accused the executive committee of behaving like a "self-perpetuating oligarchy".

CRICKET

Yorkshire were drawn at home to Essex and Leicestershire at home to Surrey in the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-finals.

DESIGN

The Prince of Wales has challenged designers to make Britain's planned 40,000 mobile-phone masts look beautiful.

POP

The Smashing Pumpkins roar back after three years with a richly rewarding album; David Sinclair reviews this and the week's other new CDs.

COMPUTER

The Federal Trade Commission is to charge Intel Corporation with abusing its position as the predominant maker of microprocessor chips.

MARKETS

The FT-SE 100 slipped 7.9 to close at 5862.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell to 103.3 after a fall to \$1.6283 and to DM2.8956.

TELEVISION

Blair and Bébé: Why the Editor of New Woman was called to brief the Prime Minister on women's magazines and their readers.

CRISIS

Management in Africa, faced with human tragedy on a biblical scale, journalists and aid agencies forge a difficult alliance that sometimes breaks down.

TELEVISION

Bill Bowman, chairman of the Covent Garden Market Authority; Professor Tony Glenister, anatomist; Robert Muller, journalist and author.

REFERENDUM

School assemblies; charity volunteers; Emperor's sorrow; duty-free; Gypsies in Europe; cinema soundtracks; headlight flashing.

MILITARY

The Clinton Administration's "soft policy" towards China continues despite Beijing's repeated violations of international treaties on transfer of nuclear and missile technology to countries like Pakistan and Iran.



TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

ANNE ROBINSON The ooh-ahh appeal of Dyson, the vacuum king

OUT ON THE RAZZ How top restaurants deal with drunken celebrities

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,804

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and clues.

- ACROSS 1 Let Ulster lag provoke argument (5,4). 9 Ran down and back to assist at birth (7). 10 Be calm? I can become still (7). 11 Small number in some trouble (5). 12 Suitable as husband no longer, Gable's not married (9). 13 Raised platform round eating-house is disposed of (8). 15 Draft first of seamen to sailing vessel (6). 18 French chap in British school (6). 19 Put glass behind to see this hairstyle (8). 22 Cereal ground in plant, say (9). 24 Simple part of job, as I concede (5). 25 Resistance surrounding king's title (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20803. Words like OFFHAND, FURBISH, UNSIGHTLY, BRING, AREAS, BARRISTER, MAISONNETTES, NONSENSE, REVERSE, PEASOUPPER, TEASE, PIPER, SKINFINT, RELAPSE, DRAINER.

ROAD AND WEATHER

Table with road numbers and weather conditions for various regions.

Weather by Fax

Table listing phone numbers for weather forecasts by region.

World City Weather

Table showing weather conditions for various world cities.

Car reports by fax

Text providing information about car reports and services.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

First quarter June 2

Text providing details about the first quarter moon phase.

FORECAST

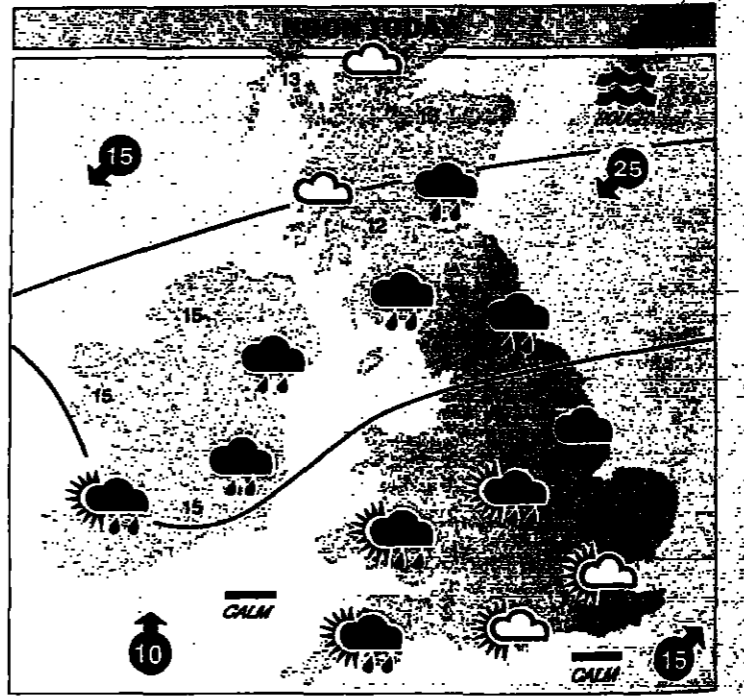
General forecast for the day, including weather conditions and temperature ranges.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

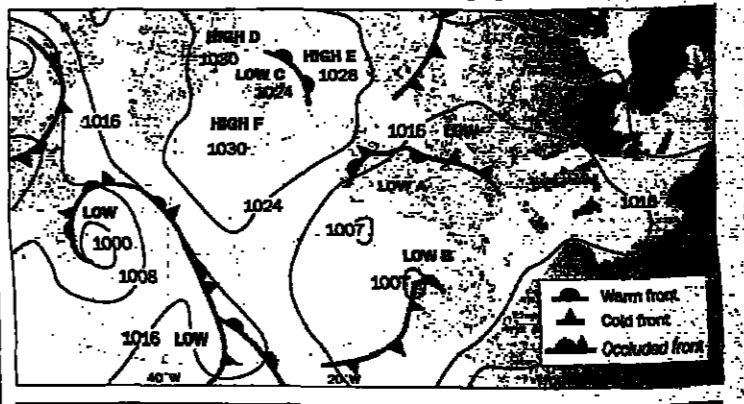
Table showing weather data for various locations in Britain from the previous day.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions for various international locations.



Changes to chart from noon: low A will drift west, low B will run north, both slowly filling. Low C will fill, with highs D, E, and F merging and building slightly.



HIGH TIDES

Table listing high tide times for various coastal locations.

Newspapers Support Recycling logo and text.

Travel insurance advertisement for Europe, offering coverage from £49.95 a year.

Large advertisement for Hillsdown, featuring a photo of a man and text about Unigate in principle.

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMICS
Anthony Harris on whether the West has bubble trouble
PAGE 33



ARTS
Competition for designers: spot the mobile phone mast
PAGES 38-41



MEDIA
Reporters and aid agencies at odds in African crises
PAGES 42-45

WRIGHT TO MISS WORLD CUP
PAGES 48-56

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY MAY 29 1998

Members drive AA to consider reforms



The AA, the fourth emergency service, is being pushed towards change

By FRASER NELSON
THE Automobile Association is to consider reforming its constitution in response to protests from members who yesterday accused its executive committee of behaving like a "self-perpetuating oligarchy." The AA has agreed to give "serious consideration" to proposals that would eliminate the committee's ability to accept a takeover bid without consulting any of its 9.4 million members. It has also agreed to encourage normal members to apply for directorship positions at the association, and will consider using a ballot on

issues of particular importance. The changes have been promised only weeks after the Royal Automobile Club decided to sell its motoring services arm and give £35,000 to its members from the proceeds. At a turbulent annual meeting in London yesterday, Sir Brian Shaw, AA chairman, was repeatedly criticised for suggesting that disgruntled members could "vote with their feet and leave." James Birkin, an ordinary member and failed candidate for the executive committee, said: "This is the most extraordinary proposition for any club to make. We don't want to vote with our feet — what we want

is for our interests to be heard." Donald Armstrong, a lifelong AA member, said: "The experience of the RAC has woken up the AA members. We want greater control, greater democracy and greater transparency." Sir Brian has agreed to "consider" Mr Birkin's proposal that it appoint a separate committee to draw up potential democratic reforms, and that it encourages "cold call" applications rather than make appointments. Although the AA is mutually owned by all its members, its 15 executive committee members have always had complete discretion over

who should be allowed to vote. Only the 4.3 million fully-paid personal members have the right to the annual vote — which consists of a show of hands at the annual meeting. Sir Brian said the company's structure is designed to protect itself against infiltration by the anti-car lobby. He said: "If we change, there is a danger that some extremists will join and dissolve the whole company. We have seen this happen abroad and have seen how other UK mutual companies have been hijacked in this way." However, he added: "We are a responsive committee, and listen to what members have to say."

IMF loan hint aids stability for Russians

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR
RUSSIA'S battered financial markets stabilised yesterday as the International Monetary Fund hinted that it would make a \$670 million (£410 million) loan available within the next few days. Russia's main stock market index closed up by 6.14 per cent yesterday, so recouping half its losses on Wednesday. The rouble, backed by punitive interest rates of 150 per cent, firmed to 6.1490 to the dollar from 6.1750. Michel Camdessus, IMF

Managing Director, said yesterday that the Fund would be able to approve the disbursement of the next tranche of a three-year \$9.2 billion financing facility within days, provided Russia took measures to improve its collection of tax revenues. The IMF has repeatedly delayed paying out this money because it was unhappy with Russian action to cut its budget deficit. Mr Camdessus warmly welcomed the budget package unveiled in Moscow on Tuesday which promised large spending cuts. He also praised Russia's central bank for its swift reaction to the attack on the rouble on Wednesday when it trebled interest rates to 150 per cent. However, Oleg Vyugin, deputy finance minister, undermined the positive impact of the IMF's pronouncements, saying that the \$670 million would not be enough to stabilise Russia's financial situation. He hinted that more money would be needed, remarks that fuelled speculation that international financial institutions or even Western governments might be called upon to put together a larger rescue package. Three leading Russian investors, who requested a meeting with Viktor Khristenko yesterday, emerged with the impression that Russia was trying to arrange a large package of extra financial assistance. Bill Browder, managing director of Hermitage Capital Management, said: "Clearly there are conversations taking place between Russia and Western sources of



Model Naomi Campbell with designer Tommy Hilfiger. The Hilfiger house is suing Tesco

Hilfiger to sue Tesco over 'fakes'

By FRASER NELSON
TOMMY HILFIGER, the US fashion house, is to sue Tesco, claiming the supermarket has been selling fake versions of its branded clothes. It claims to have discovered a "substantial amount of counterfeit" clothing which Tesco bought in the US to cut out the official UK Hilfiger supplier. Tesco confirmed it has been using the grey market — distributors outside the UK which are not authorised by the manufacturer — to buy Hilfiger clothes, but has denied selling any fakes. It said yesterday: "This is complete rubbish. What Hilfiger are trying to do is put up a smokescreen to conceal the real issue of their selective distribution network." Since Easter, agents acting for Hilfiger have trawled 25 Tesco stores to see if it is selling any counterfeit stock. Fred Gehring, chief executive of Tommy Hilfiger Europe, said: "Tommy Hilfiger is a globally respected brand and we owe it to all our consumers that whenever they buy our merchandise they can be sure it is genuine." Tesco is one of the many UK retailers who are refused permission to sell brands from some retail companies. By using the fully legal grey market, it has bought cheap stock from willing sellers in the US and elsewhere. This is the seventh time Tesco has gone overseas to buy branded goods it could not secure from UK suppliers. It recently bought £1.5 million worth of football shirts and trackuits in preparation for the World Cup. It intends to sell Umbro football shirts at £33 compared with £45 on the high street.

Hillsdown agrees to Unigate in principle

THE board of Hillsdown Holdings, the food producer, has agreed in principle to recommend that shareholders accept the £1.6 billion bid from Unigate, the rival best known for its dairy products. Yesterday Unigate formally told investors that it had offered 217p a share for Hillsdown, the chilled foods and biscuits business that also encompasses Fairview Homes and Christie Tyler, the furniture-maker. Both sides were locked in discussions at Hillsdown's headquarters yesterday. It is thought that there is agreement over the 217p price, but the structure of the deal, and whether payment will be made in cash or shares, is holding up finalisation. Earlier in the year Unigate had an informal offer of 207p rejected. Its primary interest is in Hillsdown's chilled food operations. When those negotiations faltered, however, Unigate decided to launch an all-out bid. Hillsdown shares rose 8p to 206 1/2p. Unigate stock fell 16p to 636 1/2p. Curtain down, page 33

finance." M Camdessus said yesterday that there had been no discussions about IMF support beyond the \$670 million. He said: "We have not started discussing anything of this kind and I have no reason to think that such a need exists." Nevertheless, the markets owed the restoration of some stability yesterday to hopes that a large financial package is on the horizon. Figures of \$5 and \$10 billion were commonly cited. The Russian central bank said it had succeeded in reversing what it called the "psychosis" in the foreign exchange market on Tuesday and Wednesday and that it had even been able to buy dollars to replenish its gold and foreign currency reserves yesterday. On Wednesday, it said that it held \$14 billion in reserves. By yesterday, that figure had risen to \$14.5 billion. Nervousness nevertheless remains. Standard & Poor's, the international credit rating agency, said it was reviewing Russia's BB-minus long-term foreign currency rating for a possible downgrade because of "intensifying fiscal and debt service pressures." More positive still was Fleming UCB Capital, the Moscow arm of Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, which yesterday upgraded its recommended exposure to Russian equities from neutral to slightly overweight in its global emerging markets portfolio. It said that Russia's fiscal problem had been much exaggerated and that it was confident of Western financial support, whether private or public.

Hinchliffe stirs protest
RESIDENTS of Knoydart, the West of Scotland estate recently taken over by Stephen Hinchliffe, are to protest about the former Facia chief's ownership of the estate at the annual general meeting of the Bank of Scotland today (Jason Nisse writes). The bank has lent £1.4 million to Knoydart Peninsular, the company that owns the estate and that was taken over

month and afterward passed a vote of no confidence in him. Mr Robertson and up to four other Knoydart residents are to lead outside today's meeting and raise questions about the bank's involvement with Knoydart. The bank, which has declined to discuss its loans, wanted its AGM to celebrate the career of its longstanding Governor, Sir Bruce Patullo, who is retiring.

SE cuts trading hours
THE London Stock Exchange plans to reverse the trend to a global 24-hour market by opening half an hour later each morning, but it has run into a barrage of criticism from brokers serving private investors, who want trading hours to be longer (Graham Searjeant writes). The change to a 9 o'clock start, due to begin on July 20, is part of a package of measures to overcome teething problems with the exchange's SETS automatic trading order book. Not enough institutional investors were placing orders or trading at each end of the day to guarantee keen prices. The exchange hopes to get round the afternoon lull by persuading Liffe, the derivatives exchange, to stay open until its own 4.30pm close. Angela Knight, director of the retail brokers' voice APCIMS, said that starting later was a retrograde step and that trading hours should be extended, at least to 8am until 5pm. Barclays Stockbrokers, one of the biggest retail firms, said its busiest time of the week was usually at 8.30 on Monday morning. Commentary, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5926.3 (-7.9)
FTSE All share	2738.88 (-1.52)
Nikkei	12796.55 (+132.26)
Dow Jones	8950.52 (+13.95)
S&P Composite	1094.26 (+2.03)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long Bond	104 1/8% (103 3/4%)
Yield	5.84% (5.84%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-mth Interbank	7 1/4% (7 1/4%)
Life long gilt	100 (100)
Future (Jun)	100 (100)

STERLING	
New York	1.8278* (1.8310)
London	1.8283 (1.8311)
\$	2.3988 (2.3928)
FF	9.7114 (9.7425)
SFr	2.3997 (2.4005)
Yen	225.70 (224.44)
£ Index	103.3 (103.5)

COMMODITIES	
Gold	1,781.5* (1,784.0)
FF	5.5625* (5.5825)
SFr	1,475.7* (1,474.5)
Yen	138.9* (137.28)
£ Index	111.5 (111.4)

CURRENCY	
Tokyo close Yen	137.15

BOND	
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$14.30 (\$14.45)

COSTS	
London close	\$294.25 (\$294.45)

* denotes midday trading price

'Bullying' Intel faces anti-trust charges

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK
THE FEDERAL Trade Commission (FTC) is gearing up for a big anti-trust lawsuit against Intel Corporation, in which it will charge the company with abusing its position as the predominant maker of microprocessor chips. The suit will allege also that Intel has "bullied" some computer manufacturers with whom it is in dispute over patents by withholding technical information about its chips. Without this data, the companies have been unable to design new products. The FTC suit would open up a second front in the "computer wars" as the commission is already locked in battle with Microsoft. Intel's processors and Microsoft's operating systems run 90 per cent of personal computers on the market, and give rise to the word "Wintel", an ironic neologism in the industry. The charges are expected to be brought against Intel in the next two weeks. Lawyers for the FTC suggest the commission may file fresh charges later this year, accusing it of using predatory pricing and contract provisions to cement its position. The tenor of the charges is the same as the general complaints filed against Microsoft last week. Chuck Mulloy, a spokesman for Intel said: "We are cooperating with the commission fully. We are very sensitive about anti-trust enforcement, and at the end of the day we believe they will determine that we behaved lawfully."

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Hairshirt is paying off, says United Utilities

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

UNITED UTILITIES yesterday said the hairshirt strategy of curbing dividend payments and focusing on cost cutting that it began last year was beginning to yield results. The North West Water and Norweb group's pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 increased 3.7 per cent to £460.5 million — at the higher end of market expectations. Derek Green, chief executive, said the figures marked the first fruits of tighter financial control be-

South West Water flags new name

By Our Industrial Correspondent

SOUTH WEST Water yesterday sought to transform itself with a name change and a shake-up of its corporate structure. It intends to call itself Penmon Group — an old English name for a military flag — and will split its regulated and non-regulated operations into separate divisions.

South West said it wanted a name for the new holding company that would reflect the fact that by 2000 it expected half its turnover to come from non-regulated businesses such as waste management rather than water and sewerage. Its non-regulated operations will trade under the name of Viridor. Ken Hill, finance director, said the division of South West's operations would also make clear where profits came from.

The company saw pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 drop from £133 million to £107 million through a combination of restructuring costs and a £7.5 million loss on asset sales compared with a £19.2 million profit on sales in the previous year. Underlying profits rose 3 per cent to £121 million.

However, South West increased its total dividend by more than expected with an 11.7 per cent rise to 41p. It also offered an enhanced scrip alternative of 30p. The final payment of 27.5p is due on August 17.

ginning to show through. Last year Mr Green declared that United would abandon the ambitious plans of its previous management and focus on its core activities. He pledged to curb dividend payments, dismantling a previous promise of high dividend growth.

Bob Ferguson, the finance director, also said that United would not make any more projections on growth the company might achieve.

The company delivered its first set of results after the departure of its chairman Sir Desmond Pither. Sir Desmond retired early at the end of March, the final casualty of a boardroom upheaval he instigated with the dismissal of Brian Staples, the then chief executive, last July.

United denied that the company paid Sir Desmond a £1 million package to go early although his severance is likely to be substantial when it is revealed in the annual report. On top of Sir Desmond's severance will be cash paid to Derek Lewis, a consultant employed by the company in a controversial £3 million deal. Mr Lewis's company was dismissed in March after two years of a five-year agreement.

Mr Lewis had been in charge of Verxex, the billing and facilities management subsidiary of United. Mr Ferguson admitted that United had overplayed the potential of Verxex. The company had hoped that it would drum up considerable outside contracts but it had delivered only a handful.

United raised its dividend 9.7 per cent to 40.5p for the year, including an enhancement of 1.36p a share. This will accrue because the final dividend will not be paid until April 6 — after the Government has abolished advanced corporation tax. This will save United £38 million.

Tempus, page 32



Good read: Bryan Bedson, chief executive of Wyndeham Press, the contract printer, who reported pre-tax profits of £10.2 million (£7.8 million) in the year to March 31. Earnings per share were 19p (15.2p) and the total dividend rises from 5.1p to 6.2p

EMI upbeat in final report

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

THE European Monetary Institute yesterday gave an upbeat assessment of the prospects for the launch of the single currency, predicting that inflation will remain under control and European growth rates will continue to pick up through the rest of this year.

In its last annual report before formally becoming the new European Central Bank next week, the EMI said it believed the Continental European recovery was "gathering pace" but with few immediate inflationary threats looming.

Wim Duisenberg, president of the Institute and ECB president elect, said there was only limited evidence of the crisis in Asia spilling over into European markets.

The EMI noted a "de facto" common interest rate policy was emerging but offered no guidance as to the level at which it expected interest rate convergence to occur.

Mr Duisenberg, however, gave warning that the eleven founder members of EMU still needed to implement more labour market reforms to help tackle unemployment.

UK export orders slump to 15-year low point

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

EXPORT orders slumped to a 15-year low in May, providing clear evidence that the manufacturing sector remains mired in recession despite a recent fall in the value of the pound.

Total manufacturing order books also declined at the sharpest rate for nearly two years, according to the Confederation of British Industry industrial trends survey published yesterday.

The gloomy data was seized upon by manufacturing union leaders who predicted up to 200,000 job losses. Ken Jackson, secretary-general of the AEEU, said: "The Bank of England must end its vendetta against manufacturers and give a clear indication that rates have peaked."

The CBI said the survey showed that the pound's slide from a seven-year high had brought no relief to Britain's hard-pressed exporters. The pound averaged DM2.93 during the survey period compared with DM3.07 in April.

Output expectations have also weakened, with manufacturers predicting zero growth in the next four months — the weakest level since 1992. There was good news, however, on inflation because price expectations are at a record low.

The weak data was also reflected in the CBI's latest economic forecast, which predicted export volume growth will fall to 1.4 per cent this year, compared with a previous forecast of 3 per cent.

The poor export performance will mean GDP growth slowing to 1.6 per cent by the end of this year. A pick-up in manufacturing next year should help the economy to record an average of 2.1 per cent growth in 1999 and the CBI forecasts a "soft landing" for the economy as a whole.

Kate Barker, chief economic adviser to the CBI, predicted that the Bank of England will cut interest rates by a quarter point towards the end of this year with rates falling to 6.25 per cent by the end of 1999. Inflation will remain largely on target in the period.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Safeway to close two Ulster supermarkets

SAFEGWAY is to close two supermarkets in Northern Ireland with the loss of almost 200 jobs, less than a year after moving into the Province. It is to shut stores in Londonderry and Portadown, Co Armagh, on Saturday. However, Safeway yesterday insisted that its commitment to Northern Ireland remained and millions of pounds was being spent on new stores and upgrading existing outlets.

The Londonderry store was being shut because a recent planning decision would fundamentally change existing trading patterns and adversely affect business. The Portadown store was closing because the company had been unable to turn around a loss-making operation.

ING hit by Asian crisis

ING BARINGS lost 480 million guilders (£145 million) during the first three months of 1998 because of financial and political turmoil in Asia. The Dutch financial group has made an additional provision of £1400 million against the losses, according to figures published yesterday. In spite of its Asian woes, the ING Group posted an 86.2 per cent leap in net profits to £1.9 billion, thanks largely to the first time inclusion of BBL, the bank it recently acquired.

Barbie wins Bluebird

GUINNESS PEAT GROUP (GPG) is to accept the increased £48.5 million, 116.5p a share, bid by Mattel for Bluebird Toys, Britain's last significant independent toy manufacturer. GPG said it would allow its own offer to lapse. Before launching a bid on January 19, GPG held a stake of nearly 23 per cent in Bluebird. GPG shares were unchanged at 31½p and Bluebird's at 115½p. Mattel, the maker of Barbie dolls, made a counter-bid after Bluebird rejected GPG's initial approach.

PhoneLink shares halted

SHARES in PhoneLink were suspended at 4.7½p, after falling from 55p, yesterday after the company said it was in talks over a reverse takeover. PhoneLink said it intended to take over Active Rover Travel, Seaforths Travel and an associated electronic trading software product which are businesses and assets connected with Reggeborough. Reggeborough holds an interest of 16.6 per cent in PhoneLink, so any transaction would be classified as a reverse takeover.

Asia blunts Christie's

CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL, the auction house, gave warning yesterday of lower sales in the first half caused by economic problems in Asia and the timing of summer sales. Lord Hindlip, the chairman, told the annual meeting that the outlook for the full year was encouraging thanks to two big consignments for auction, from the Wentworth Collection and a private collection of important 19th and 20th-century pictures. The shares were unchanged at 388p.

Helical Bar lets City site

HELICAL BAR is to pre-let a new 260,000 sq ft office development to Slaughter & May, the corporate law firm, in a £150 million deal which forms part of its development of two sites in the City of London. The agreed rent is just under £40 per sq ft on the office areas, on a lease of 25 years and 6 months. The development sites are Northampton Hall, in Chiswell Street, and City & Islington College, in Bunhill Row. Helical Bar shares rose 6p to 658½p.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.72	2.54	Malta	0.574	0.615
Austria Sch	21.40	19.74	Netherlands Gld	3.20	3.188
Belgium Fr	62.98	57.99	New Zealand \$	3.20	2.95
Canada Cdn	2.498	2.519	Norway Kr	13.87	11.58
Cyprus Cyp	0.886	0.825	Portugal Esc	305.15	287.12
Denmark Kr	11.64	10.75	S Africa Rd	9.13	8.17
Finland Fmk	5.35	6.61	Spain Ptas	287.72	288.58
France Fr	10.19	9.41	Sweden Kr	13.54	12.44
Germany Dm	3.06	2.82	Switzerland Fr	2.66	2.34
Greece Dr	325	434	Turkey Lira	429.84	409.89
Hong Kong \$	13.47	12.57	USA \$	1.738	1.685
Iceland	129	109	Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.		
Ireland P	1.21	1.12			
Israel Sh	6.34	5.69			
Italy Lira	3030	2793			
Japan Yen	240.28	222.73			

LIG braced for trouble over Italian closure

By Paul Durman

LONDON International Group, the Durex condoms and rubber gloves group, has built up stocks of condoms in Italy ahead of a battle with the Communist-controlled Bologna city council.

The group said it was ready for trouble with the closure of its Italian factory on the outskirts of Bologna,

which will cause the loss of 180 jobs. In setting aside £15 million to cover the costs of closing the Casalecchio plant and reorganising its southern European business, Nick Hodges, chief executive, said LIG had made "full provision for the worst possible scenario".

LIG has previously closed a large manufacturing plant in Chingford, Essex, and another in America as part

of a five-year recovery plan. A £10.3 million build up of stocks was the main reason LIG's operating cashflow fell by almost 30 per cent to £35.1 million in the year to March 31. Besides the Italian problem, LIG also built up stocks in preparation for the launch of Durex in America and a new range of medical examination gloves.

Ignoring a £12 million loss on the recent sale of Cook Bates, an American

manicure tools business, LIG increased annual pre-tax profits by 14.6 per cent to £40.8 million. LIG remains confident of its ability to deliver double digit growth of profit and earnings per share.

A final dividend of 2.4p, payable as a foreign income dividend, will increase the total payout by 14.3 per cent to 3.2p a share.

Tempus, page 32



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Minimum wage won't cater for all

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

Charged with recommending a level for the new national minimum wage, George Bain and the Low Pay Commission embarked on serious research. They toured the country, attending 100 meetings in order to ascertain local pay levels. They ploughed through 566 written submissions. Then, remarkably, they did what everyone had been expecting for months and produced a figure of £3.60 an hour.

This had long been judged by politicians and pundits alike to be the most that business could tolerate and the least that the unions might grudgingly accept. George Bain deserves credit for going through the necessary public relations exercise without being deflected from his purpose.

But when the Government formally accepts his recommendation, as it no doubt gratefully will, the real horse trading will begin. For while Professor Bain has been adamant throughout the exercise that what he wanted was a flat rate minimum wage, the only exceptions to apply to young workers, companies are preparing to haggle over just what a minimum wage is in practice. On the interpretation could depend the futures of major sectors of business and many thousands of jobs.

The catering and clothing industries in particular will be anxious to persuade the Government that George Bain's ideal of one hourly rate for all needs

refinement. Something of a purist, he has ruled out such refinements as regional weightings, although retailers, for instance, made a strong plea for different local norms to be recognised. His refusal to budge on this has been an important factor in ensuring that the national minimum had to be set relatively low.

But while £3.60 is not likely to cause problems for most employers, in the real world, wage packets are rarely what they superficially seem. Marks & Spencer, for instance, pays the bulk of its full-time shop staff a basic rate of £4.75 an hour. Yet if annual bonuses, non-contributory pension schemes and other benefits are thrown into the equation, a clever human resources expert can easily argue that the lucky employee is being rewarded at the rate of £6.35.

Since M&S is already well ahead of the minimum, it is absolved from having to argue that it is not merely the hourly wage rate which should be considered, but its suppliers in what is left of the UK clothing industry will be trying to make just such a case. In order to compete with overseas manufacturers, many companies opt to

pay a low base wage and then reward production. Paying by piece work does not condemn a factory as a sweat shop, merely as an organisation keen to reward the increased productivity which Tony Blair and Gordon Brown are demanding of all good citizens.

Taking the average wage from such a factory and converting it into an hourly rate might well produce a figure higher than the national minimum wage. Yet it is doubtful George Bain would countenance such a creative attitude towards his flat rate.

There are also fears of a similarly ineluctable attitude towards the catering industry. Employers would like to argue that provision of uniforms and meals are valuable parts of the remuneration package, a case which would carry little weight with staff. But what of tips? It might not please all the waiting staff but if the Low Pay Commission could ensure that service

charges were condensed into bills and thus into wage rates, consumers would have good cause to laud George Bain.

Unigate is the best bet for Hillsdown

Having acknowledged that Hillsdown had to be dismembered, Sir John Nott would be kinder to himself and shareholders to allow Unigate to undertake the butchery. A price of 21p a share should be sufficiently face-saving to allow Sir John to bow out from a role in which he never seemed truly comfortable. To quit government and run Lazard's is one thing but to move on to a career in poultry and upholstery is hardly fitting for a former defence minister.

Ian Martin and Ross Buckland should be much more at home assimilating appetising bits of Hillsdown into Unigate. If

they have already identified savings of £20 million a year to be had from integrating the food operations, there are likely to be more to come once the extra muscle is applied to the pressure points of customers such as Tesco. Unigate is already the biggest supplier to the grocer but, despite much talk of partnership, relationships between retailer and food manufacturer still have an undercurrent of tension, bordering on outright warfare. Analysts are looking cautiously at the deal, but Hillsdown is one of those companies where the component parts are worth more than the whole and Unigate is well placed to extract the value. Venture capitalists are already lining up to help rid Unigate of some of the bits it may not want, particularly the furnishing side, although housebuilding could prove harder to offload. Sir John's decision to demerge rather than sell the business may have been influenced by a short-

Burlington Bertie v the global market

Last October, the London Stock Exchange brought in automatic trading on an order book for FTSE-100 companies to placate uncomprehending regulators and investment bankers trading derivatives. After a six-month review that cannot have made happy reading, the exchange now has another public relations disaster on its hands, trying its best to debug the SETS system.

The trouble has always been that many fund managers do not like the uncertainty of the order book. One escape route is to trade the old way. The other is to avoid committing yourself early, until the market's tone is clear, and to avoid being left hanging

at the end of trading. The old market-makers were paid to take care of these difficulties.

Private investors are told that trading margins are cheaper. They are more likely to notice that share prices are more volatile and they cannot be told the share index at breakfast.

Some solutions are welcome. From next month, both small and big orders will be allowed on SETS to boost liquidity.

Keeping the whole exchange closed between 8.30 and 9am, including non-SETS trade in smaller stocks, is nonsensical. Many private investors trade then and fund managers are just as likely to hold back until 9.30.

London's claim to be Europe's exchange looks thin if it does not open until 10am continental time. Only the City's favourite Aunt Sally could respond to the 24-hour global market by shrinking to 7 hours 30 minutes.

The bad news bear

AMID chaos, there is optimism. India and Pakistan are exploding nuclear bombs, the markets of the Far East are collapsing and Russia is in turmoil. American and European banks stand dangerously exposed to huge risk on their derivatives portfolios. Tony Dye of fund managers PDMF reckons that it is a 50/50 chance that this is the cue for the UK stock market crash. The giant bear of investment management is hopeful.

Dawson puts the sale sign up over Pringle

BY PRASER NELSON

PRINGLE SWEATERS, one of Scotland's best-known brands, was placed on the international auction block yesterday after Dawson International, the textiles group, said it is seeking a takeover bid.

The company, in which the shares have lost 30 per cent of their value this year, warned the market that trouble in the US and Asia will wipe out almost all of its profits after an expected £11 million charge in exceptional costs.

Dawson's main problems have come from the US where its JE Morgan and Duofold divisions have failed to sell substantial amounts of thermal and sports underwear.

Peter Forrest, chief executive, said that as a result, Dawson would be forced to make "substantial" job cuts among its 3,500 UK manufacturing staff.

He said: "The strength of sterling has knocked us sideways. We now have a duty to our shareholders to consider any offers."

Mr Forrest said the company would make "only a modest profit" this year, against the £12.5 million returned last time.

City analysts said an offer from the US — where Dawson generates a third of its sales — is likely.

Shares in Dawson closed 13 per cent lower at 48½p yesterday, valuing the company at £90 million.

Unions, meanwhile, voiced alarm over the announcement and the previous day's move by the Sweater Shop to call in receivers.

Bill Speirs, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, said: "It is a very worrying situation and we are obviously concerned about the future of the industry. We will be having a meeting with the textile unions to come up with an assessment of where the industry stands at the moment."



Dick Brown said the deal, completed in 18 days, catapulted C&W "into a leading role in the world league of Internet and data traffic carriers"

C&W lifts MCI merger hopes through £385m Internet deal

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

CABLE & WIRELESS, the international telecommunications group, yesterday removed one of the obstacles to the WorldCom-MCI merger by paying £385 million for MCI's Internet backbone service.

The deal, completed in 18 days including secret appearances before the US Justice Department and European

Commission officials, will give C&W a "premier" Internet business in the fastest-growing sector of the US telecommunications market.

C&W is paying three times revenues for a business producing modest profits at the moment — a lower multiple than Internet has been selling for in the US.

Dick Brown, C&W chief executive, said yesterday: "We think we are getting this at great value

because MCI had to sell it." The overlap between the Internet businesses of WorldCom and MCI has been cited as a main regulatory obstacle to the merger.

Bert Roberts, the MCI chairman, said yesterday that by divesting the Internet backbone — the national network as opposed to its Internet retail business — MCI had addressed anti-trust concerns.

As a 20 per cent shareholder in MCI, BT would almost certainly have been offered the Internet business but there is no sign that BT was a bidder.

Mr Brown said yesterday the deal "catapults us into a leading role in the world league of Internet and data traffic carriers".

Under the deal C&W will acquire all of its 22 domestic nodes, or hubs, and 15,000 local interconnection ports and will take on more than

Dialog makes progress on costs

BY OUR CITY STAFF

DIALOG CORPORATION, the company created by the merger between the MAID and Knight-Ridder information businesses, says it is on course to beat the target of saving \$35 million (£21.5 million) a year on costs.

The shares, however, fell from 17½p to 15½p after Dialog yesterday reported a £1.8

million profit before tax in the three months to March 31, down from a previous £2.35 million. Earnings fell from 1.3p to 1p. Gross profits rose from £4.5 million to £2.3 million but administrative costs rose from £2.6 million to £4.7 million and the interest charge rises to £4.3 million from a £62,000 gain.

Michael Mander, chairman, said: "The progress that we have made during the first quarter demonstrates that the newly formed Dialog Corporation has been successfully established on a firm and profitable footing, with a lower cost base than initially anticipated."

He said that he was confi-

dent that "any further improvement in revenues during the remainder of the year will impact positively on the group's earnings".

Dan Wagner, chief executive, said: "We have brought the business down to a cost level where we can pay our debt bills and stay profitable."

Mr Brown said yesterday that if the business continued to expand at its present 50 to 100 per cent a year he would be happy to "reinvest the cash for half a decade".

He envisages using the network, which can handle simultaneous voice and data, to compete with traditional telephone operators with voice services over the Internet for the business market.

C&W closed yesterday at 67½p, down 4p. C&W also announced it had agreed to increase its stake in Bezeq, the Israeli telecoms company, from 10.2 to 12.75 per cent.

Cassidy set for battle against Oliver rebels

BY JASON NISSÉ

DENIS CASSIDY, who resigned as chairman of Liberty after a campaign to oust him, is set to face another battle to remove him from his job, this time as chairman of Oliver Group, the shoe retailer.

Rebel shareholders speaking for 29.4 per cent of Oliver's shares are planning to call an extraordinary general meeting to have Mr Cassidy and Martin Watts, the managing director, removed.

The move comes after the defeat yesterday of plans by Oliver to raise £5.7 million through a placing of shares with institutional investors. Shareholders blocked the proposals despite Mr Cassidy delaying a vote on the issue for 48 hours while he tried to convince them of his case.

Mr Cassidy said the company would be looking at other ways to finance the group, shares in which have nearly halved in value over the last year. He added that he was amazed that the investors wanted to oust him, as many

Stakis leaps 61% on hotel strength

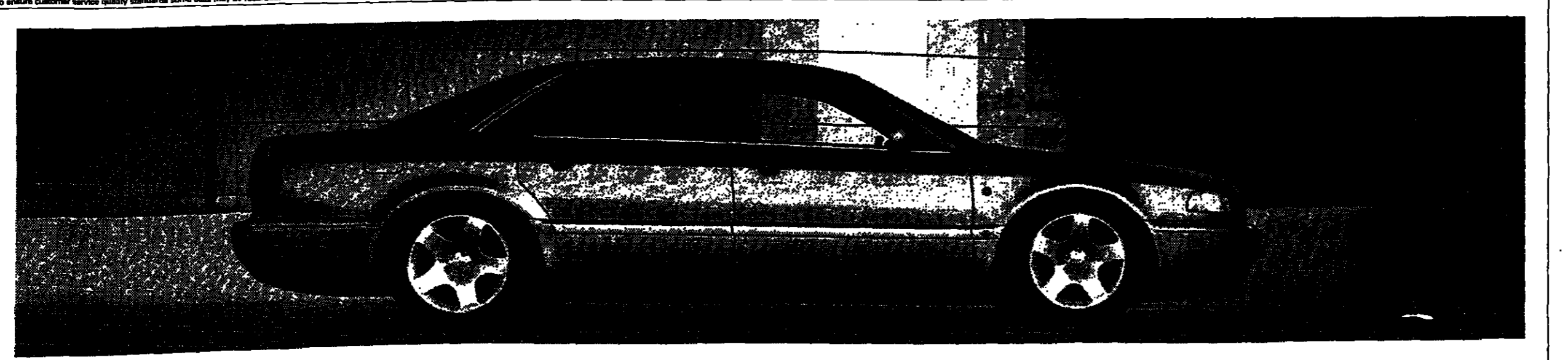
BY ADAM JONES

A STRONG performance by its hotels division helped Stakis, the leisure group, increase interim profits by 61 per cent.

It also confirmed yesterday that its non-executive chairman, Richard Cole-Hamilton, will step down on October 1 to make way for Robert Smith, the chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management who is currently deputy chairman at Stakis.

Profit before tax and exceptional for the six months to March 29 was £35.6 million, up from £22.1 million. Sales rose 39 per cent to £181 million.

At its hotels, Stakis took advantage of a 17 per cent expansion in the number of rooms available. It increased its average room rate 10.2 per cent to £60.48 and occupancy



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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK
Stock Market Writer
of the Year

Calm returns to City as international storm eases

A SENSE of normality returned to the Square Mile last night after another volatile performance had produced an 88-point turnaround in the equity market.



Dawson International, makers of Pringle sportswear, as worn by Nick Faldo, is seeking a buyer after poor sales

Investors chose to hang on for the ride following a steady performance by Wall Street and Asian markets overnight. But early attempts at a rally ran out of steam on publication of the latest survey from the CBI showing export orders waning and some of the lowest prices on record.

Halfax, which joins the Morgan Stanley index on Monday, came in for profit-taking losing 27p at 89p. The sale sign has gone up at Dawson International 7 1/2p lower at 48 1/2p. The Pringle clothing group gave warning that sales have been so bad in its key markets it may be forced to find a buyer for the business. Brokers had been looking for pre-tax profits of around £17 million for the current year but by the company's own admission profits will be modest.

It was the first day of dealings for City North following a placing of shares at 145p. The property developer opened at 166 1/2p and touched a peak of 166 1/2p before closing at 158 1/2p. A total of 1.05 million shares changed hands. Shares in PhoneLink were suspended 7 1/2p lower at 47 1/2p pending the outcome of talks that could result in a reverse takeover by some of its biggest shareholders. Powerscreen remained in freefall dropping a further 13p to 97 1/2p after warning of losses of £65 million earlier this week following the discovery of financial irregularities at one of its subsidiaries. Hall Engineering also lost another 23p at 177p in the wake of this week's trading update that warned the outcome for the year would fall materially below expectations. GIU-EDGED: Early losses were clawed back on the back of that subdued CBI survey. Dealers said the report showing prices at their lowest levels on record helped soothe any remaining fears that the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee may come under further pressure to raise interest rates.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt closed £0.02 down at £108.99, while among conventional issues Treasury 7 1/2 per cent 2007 finished £0.06 up at £110.69. NEW YORK: Technology shares led the market higher in morning trading. By midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was up 13.95 points at 8,950.52. The Life Options quoted are Wednesday's prices.

aggers looking to invest abroad and inclusion as a constituent attracts institutional support. SBC Warburg and Dresner Kleinwort Benson both rate the shares a "buy" after this week's profits news.

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MAJOR INDICES

Table with columns for location (New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London) and values for various indices like Dow Jones, Nikkei Average, Hang Seng, etc.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues such as Ambient Media, Ambisbus Pub Co, ASOB B, etc., with their respective prices and changes.

HIGH FLYERS

Table listing high-flyer stocks like Ask Central n/p (350), Guinness n/p (20), etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes in stock prices, including Janis, Enbridge, Psion, Booker, BAA, etc.

TEMPUS LIG bouncing back

THE CLOSURE of London International Group's Italian condom factory marks the final stage of the rubber company's rehabilitation. In recognition, LIG's shares yesterday rose almost 9 per cent to a new high of 212 1/2p, a level not seen since 1993.

After the Bologna factory employs only 180, LIG is planning for reorganisation costs of up to £15 million. But after closing its oldest and smallest plant, LIG will be able to replace the lost production at half the price.

Stock-building in preparation for the almost inevitable strike is one reason why LIG's operating cashflow fell sharply, in stark contrast to the 12.3 per cent rise in operating profits to £46.7 million. The rise in stocks reflects other important moves, principally the launch of Durex in the United States, where LIG has previously spread its market.

Casino, which opened in Edinburgh six months ago, had attracted 14,000 members by the end of March. This success has encouraged Stakis to develop more similar large casinos.

Stakis turned in an excellent set of interim results yesterday, with a useful contribution from the new LivingWell health club business bolstering the expected strong performance from hotels and casinos.

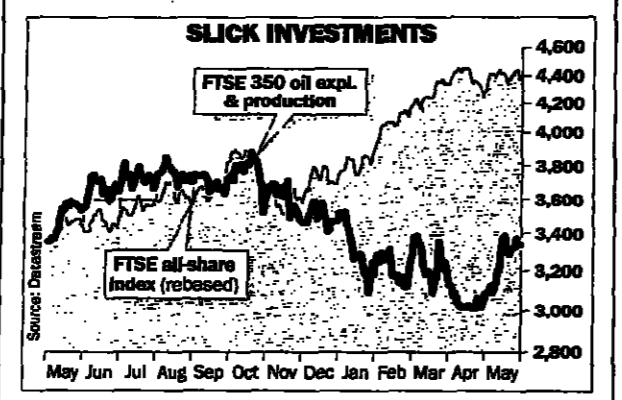
Higher gaming duty is also set to cost £1.2 million a year. Having risen to 143p from a 91p low in January, the shares now trade on about 18.5 times forecast earnings.

The hotels division, responsible for £43.8 million of the group's £52 million of profits, enjoyed a triple benefit of a 17 per cent increase in room numbers, a 9 per cent rise in the occupancy rate (to 73.7 per cent) and a 10 per cent rise in the average room rate. Combined, this produced a 39 per cent improvement in profits.

Stakis intends to add three new four-star hotels every year, but it will be hard-pushed to sustain the recent improvements in occupancy and room rates.

United Utilities is transforming itself from the company that last year lurched from one boardroom crisis to another, stoking up fresh controversy over fat-cat pay and ditching a high-profile, high-cost contract in Bangkok. Sir Desmond Pitcher, the autocratic "king of the fat cats" who was executive chairman, has gone, following on the heels of Brian Staples, the chief executive he fired. Derek Green, the new chief executive, has set United on a course of comparative austerity that the City has warmly welcomed.

performance underwar" and how it helped one to perform. The Dawson management was stumped. It had not realised it was on the other side of a cultural divide. The group knows a great deal about Harris tweed and Pringle jumpers, but the £1 million of exceptional charges announced yesterday to cover returns of Morgan's thermal apparel they still have not mastered performing in the underwear market.



THE falling oil price has been bad news for the oil majors leaving them cold-shouldered by the institutions while making the cost of finding fresh supplies a little prohibitive.

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, BRENT, and various oil products.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond, etc.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various currencies and instruments like Prime Bank Bills, Discount Market, Treasury Bills, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies and terms like Dollar, Deutschmarks, Swiss Franc, etc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metal prices including Bullion Open, Kruggerand, Platinum, Silver, Palladium, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies and terms.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, etc.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates for various currencies like Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, etc.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE volumes for various companies like ASDA, Allied Nat, Allied Nat, etc.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street market data including May 29, May 27, May 25, May 22, and May 21, with columns for various stock indices and company shares.

Let talk the be... Markets in the West may be but pessimists are wrong by asset prices

THE Asian market has been a real disappointment. It has been a real disappointment. It has been a real disappointment. It has been a real disappointment. It has been a real disappointment.

US Fed is almost certain to raise rates. The Fed is almost certain to raise rates. The Fed is almost certain to raise rates. The Fed is almost certain to raise rates.

Advertisement for 'Switch' featuring Charles Anson and text: 'THE European Broadcasting Union... Switch... Charles Anson looks forward to working in broadcasting'

FTSE 100: 8,950.52 (+13.95)

DAX: 4,812.26 (+9.38)

Hang Seng: 8,877.94 (+105.49)

Nikkei: 17,966.53 (+132.29)

Gold: 352.24 (+0.24)

Silver: 4.82 (+0.02)

Oil: 28.50 (+0.10)

Gas: 1.80 (+0.02)

US Dollar: 1.50 (+0.01)

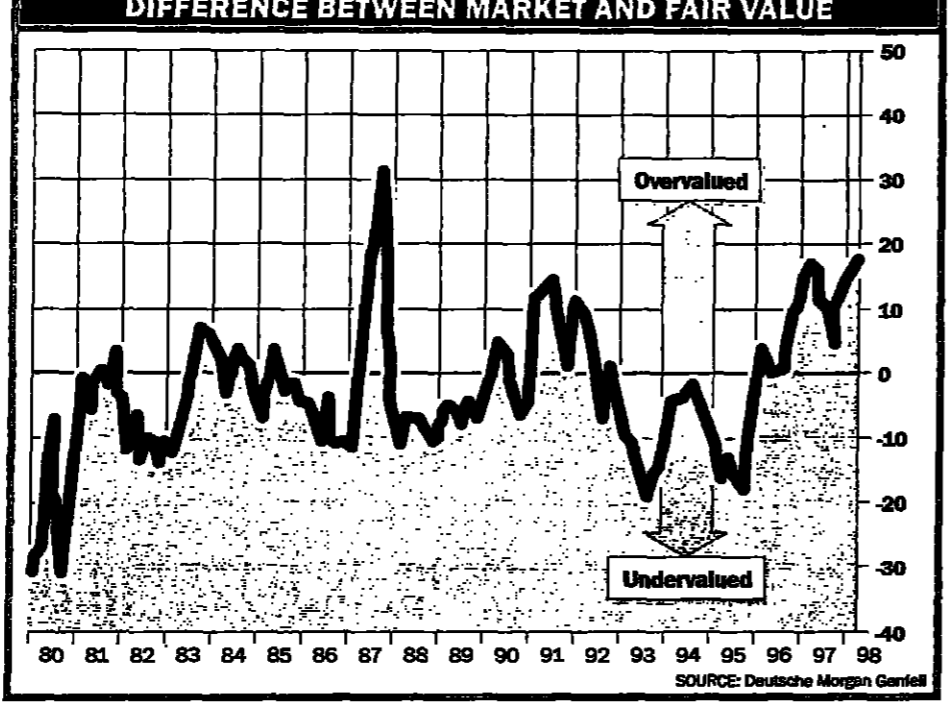
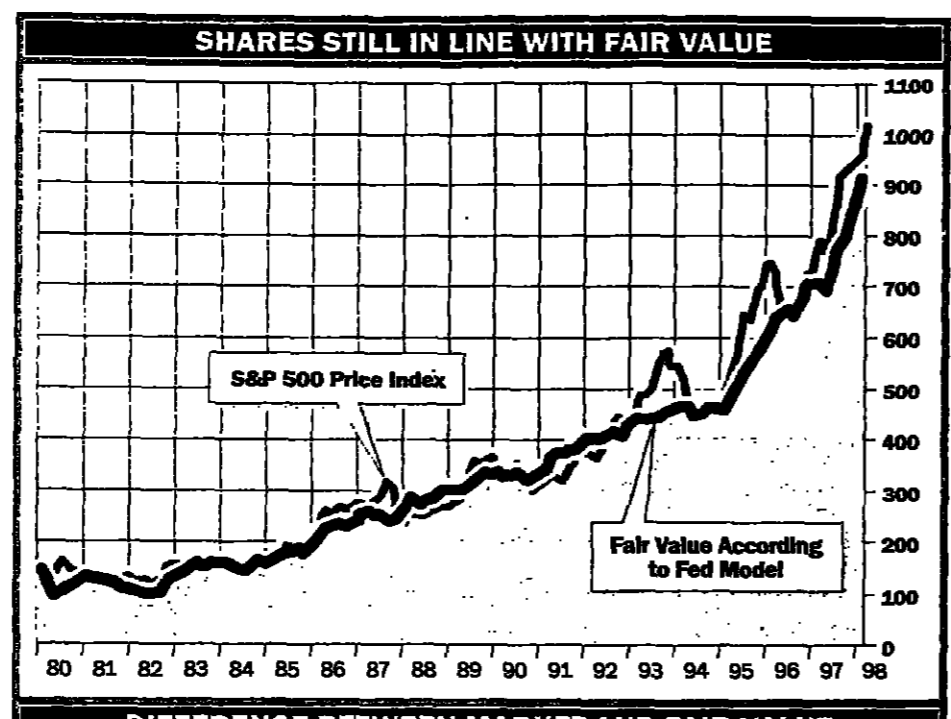
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ECONOMIC VIEW ANTHONY HARRIS

Let talk of bubbles trouble the bears with sore heads

Markets in the West may slow but pessimists are wrong to be too alarmed by asset prices



According to some gloomy analysts, the central banks of the West are now caught in a dangerous dilemma: cause a slump or permit a dangerous bubble. Japan burst its own bubble nine years ago, and has not even begun to recover: on the contrary, it now seems to be sliding helplessly from recession into depression. The long-term remedies, bank reconstruction and deregulation, are at last being applied very cautiously; but in the short run they will only make matters worse. And in the past few months, of course, bubbles have burst throughout South-East Asia. The financial collapse has resumed, after a pause, but the economic fallout has hardly yet begun.

Asian import demand has already fallen by a fifth, checking growth in the US and Europe, and pushing Japan still further into depression. But the expected flood of low-cost imports from Asia is still held back by financial chaos: would-be exporters are crippled by dollar-denominated debt, and unable to raise the working capital they need to finance production. When this problem is solved — as it will be, thanks largely to Western aid — output and profit margins in the developed world will suffer.

Yet in the US and Europe, financial markets are still near all-time highs, growth is accelerating, and the dangers of inflation are starting to reappear. Domestically, there could hardly be a clearer case for a tighter policy, which would slow growth and check asset inflation. The domestic risks are small: in 1987 the Fed raised rates, and caused a sharp asset market correction, but this had virtually no economic ill-effects. It was in Britain, where cheap money was sustained for too long, that a belated correction caused a deep recession.

Yet tightening in the West now may prove the last straw for the Asian economies, as the US Fed is almost obsessively aware. Asia needs buoyant Western demand and cheap debt service if it is to have any hope of working its way out of its crisis. So the central banks are seen as caught between a rock and a hard place: if they deflate, they could set off a world depression. If they hold off, they may have to watch helplessly as a Western bubble inflates and bursts. The historic parallel may then not be 1987, but 1929. So the split votes in the Fed and our own MPC reflect real unease. If only they had acted earlier.

Are things really as bad as that? A sober answer must address two largely separate

questions. Is there a danger of a bubble economy? And is this a potential bubble market? The first, at least, is a fairly straightforward question. Growth does look unsustainably high in the US and Britain (and in a number of smaller economies — Spain, Portugal and Ireland). But the Asian crisis has already provoked sharp downward revisions in forecasts for growth and profits in the second half of this year and next. A prospective growth rate of 2 per cent in the UK, and US net imports that may reach 3 per cent of GDP in the next 12 months, hardly suggest unmanageable demand pressures. On the contrary, the biggest worries may well be about trade deficits. But these are simply the surpluses that Asia desperately needs, on the other side of the accounts.

Few other Western economies, meanwhile, are anywhere near overheating, and some, notably Germany and France, are far more worried about unemployment than about any threat from prosperity. In these countries, the astonishing rise in financial asset markets is an almost unmitigated blessing, the one strong offset to the economic squeeze that has resulted

from the Maastricht convergence process. It has sharply increased investor wealth, and slashed the cost of funds for expansion. The financial markets have already played much the same role in the US and in Britain, with results which are generally seen as benign, and even enviable.

More important, the pattern of spending has not been that of a bubble economy. Economic bubbles are marked above all by excessive investment — in new capacity, and above all in construction. A slowdown then leaves a crippling legacy of idle factories, empty buildings, and bad debts. That was the pattern in Texas in the 1980s, in Japan in 1990 (and more mildly, in Britain), and most recently in the Asian tigers. A suggestive construction boom has now begun in the US; but only very recently. For the rest, spending has been remarkably sober. The first claim on rising incomes has not been speculation or consumption, but saving — personal, corporate and even at government level. This looks more like consolidation than bubble spending.

All the same, this pattern is so unusual, historically speaking,

that the central banks are devoting much research effort to analysing it. Is it a conjunctural accident, or does it reflect some more profound change? The provisional answer seems to be that the hoarding of corporate cash may be conjunctural — a natural response to gross overcapacity in so many industries. The worldwide fashion for fiscal prudence may also be less solid than it appears: it owes too much to the business cycle in the US and Britain and to window-dressing among the EMU candidates, and might melt away if a world recession brought Keynesian remedies — already being urged on Japan — back into general fashion.

The change in personal spending habits, on the other hand, looks more reliable, because it appears to be the result of real changes in persons' circumstances — job insecurity, demography, and doubts over existing pension expectations. Is any job truly secure in the modern world? Not even in Japan, the home of lifetime employment. And ageing is a problem in all the developed economies, worst in Japan and continental Europe, least threatening in coun-

tries that still attract young, economically active immigrants: the US, and now the Republic of Ireland and even the UK. Even here, though, it is still a problem. The pension burden is growing remorselessly.

Are existing pension contracts dependable? Some private schemes have already defaulted in Japan. Can the generous state promises of the European social market economies be honoured, as the dependency ratio (the ratio of retired to active workers) gets rapidly worse, doubling in some cases? Only with astronomical rises in taxation. Only the UK can be half complacent. It has already cut the long-term state entitlement virtually to subsistence level. But this "solution" only passes the burden back to the old. The rational response, in every case, is to save more hence the huge flows to all the safer asset markets.

Big inflows drive up prices, though; so the nagging doubt remains. Is the flow largely speculative, and liable to stop when prices turn? And how soon will they turn? These are partly questions about the present level of asset prices, a level that long ago alarmed the pessimists, sometimes to their huge cost. The question may look unanswerable: how long is a piece of string?

However, there are objective tests. Perhaps the best is the Federal Reserve's model of "fair value" for financial assets. It has performed remarkably well for some decades in forecasting the one market that dominates all the others. As the chart shows, prices are demanding high, but certainly not unprecedentedly so; an optimist might expect simply a period of flat prices while reality catches up with the market.

The fact that the inflow is steady supports optimism: most savers will still be looking at large gains on most of their purchases over time, even after a correction on the 1987 scale. The pattern of price movements and the balance of expectation are also fairly reassuring. The fall in prices on Wednesday, on to renewed Asian worries, was a rational response to a changing situation; no sign of panic. And the weight of gloomy comment, some of it in highly prestigious papers, is some protection against nasty surprises. Speculative peaks and collapses are the result of thoughtless optimism, not of nail-biting.

There is comfort, too, in the property market, always a good measure of speculative fever. House price inflation is difficult to measure: hence the efforts at the Bank of England to develop some official index. However, the ratio of current average prices to incomes is a good check of the current level of prices, if not of their rate of increase. It shows nothing out of the ordinary, and certainly nothing at all like the national gasp that set in in the early 1970s, and again in the late 1980s, leading in each case to collapse. In short, we have neither a bubble economy, nor a bubble market: both look too strong for comfort, but are liable to slow. Leave disaster talk to bears with sore heads.



Sir John Nott's leadership of the group has not fulfilled earlier hopes

Hillsdown brings the curtain down for a graceful exit

The story of Hillsdown Holdings, the strange, unfocused food group, is entering its epilogue phase. Barring last-minute hitches Unigate, the rival food producer, will bring this company's infamous life to an end with a cash bid valuing it at about £1.6 billion.

A survey of Hillsdown's colourful past shows it to be an archetypal Eighties growth company driven by acquisitions. Then it became a disappointment as recession hit and its rag-bag collection of businesses seemed incapable of avoiding the slings or arrows thrown by the Nineties. Now it is a sad group seeking a graceful exit.

Hillsdown was founded in 1975 when Harry Solomon, a solicitor, got together with the more entrepreneurial David Thompson. Over the next decade Sir Harry (knighted in 1991) and Mr Thompson bought and restructured aggressively. In the recession of the early Eighties there were bargains to be had and Hillsdown — named after a house owned by Mr Thompson in Tottenham, Hertfordshire — made hay.

The trick was to buy cheaply and squeeze out value. The dynamic duo were not alone in finding success with the tactic. At Hanson, Lords White and Hanson were at it, as were Nigel Rudd and Brian McGowan at Williams Holdings.

Back then it was quite respectable — indeed, it was *de rigueur* — to create conglomerates. What did it matter what subsidiaries did as they made money? It was also usual to buy companies by issuing shares to vendors. That, after all, was what shares were for, wasn't it? Few eyebrows were raised as Hillsdown grew, with deals coming as fast as one a week in the firm's most frenetic period around the time of its stock market float in 1985. As long as the figures were going in the right, positive, direction there was little incentive to question strategy. Demand for shares in Hillsdown's flotation ran nearly ten times ahead of supply.

David Thompson's background was in meat and

Robert Cole on the drama of a rag-bag group about to reach its conclusion

while many of the deals were food related, other things were snapped up. It is from this acquisitive period that today's Hillsdown can trace the origins of the house-building arm. This, and Hillsdown's role as corporate fashion victim, overshadows examination of the underlying businesses.

Chiefly, attention has been directed at the two founders and Sir John Nott, the current chairman. Sir John was Defence Secretary at the time of the Falklands conflict and earned City credentials as the chairman of the merchant bank Lazard Brothers. Of the three, David Thompson is the least visible and the most intriguing. A pillar in the early days, he stepped away from management soon after the 1985 float to spend more and more time satiating his passion for thoroughbred horse



Party Politics, a success for the founder of Hillsdown

racing. Perhaps best known as the owner of the 1992 Grand National winner Party Politics, Mr Thompson also owns one of the country's leading stud farms: Cheveley Park in Newmarket. He has also been involved with Queens Park Rangers football club.

By 1989 Mr Thompson had sold his 30 per cent stake in Hillsdown, netting himself a £500 million fortune. Given that the Hillsdown story began to unravel in 1990, his timing looks perfect.

Sir Harry lingered. By 1992 he had been obliged to step down from the chairmanship as investor anxiety grew with the amount of damage done to Hillsdown by the recession. Food scares, battered consumer expenditure, and a moribund housing market made life difficult. Sir Harry remained on the board of Hillsdown as a non-executive director until as late as March of last year.

Sir John Nott took over the chairmanship from Sir Harry and hopes were that under his more cautious leadership Hillsdown would be led from the shadows. It never quite happened. Attempts to focus the group (as Nineties fashions demanded) involved buying more businesses while the property and furniture arms remained.

Under Sir John's leadership Hillsdown has digested more than its fair share of chief executives and finance directors, but none has made an impact. The search for shareholders involved Hillsdown in secret takeover talks with Unigate this year but, when they stumbled on price, it led Sir John to propose a three-way merger of Hillsdown. That was three weeks ago and very much in keeping with prevailing corporate trends. But the merger plan was only briefly a serious option. Instead, it brought Unigate back with a more public display of intentions and a more generous offer.

Switch over

THE European Broadcasting Union, the club of Europe's public service broadcasters, is a fine body, but not one to win plaudits for its powers of communication. In fact, I doubt one person in a thousand has even heard of the EBU, which negotiates television sports rights to events such as the Olympics among other things.

So what luck that one of our premium communicators should find himself out of work just when the Geneva-based body decides to boost its public image. Charles Anson, still best known for his seven

years as press secretary to the Queen, has been squeezed out of his job as corporate relations director of Grand Metropolitan by the merger with Guinness and then hired by the EBU.

Anson tells me that having faced down the TV companies at their worst in his days working for the Palace, he looks forward to working in broadcasting at last.

"THE development of the results was influenced by... the extra addition to the value adjustments to receivables of the banking operations in connection with Asia." This particular piece of double-Dutch comes, predictably, from the English language version of Dutch bank ING's results. I think it means Asian loans had to be written down.

What Price?

THE agony of waiting is almost over. Within the next few days, yes, that soon, we will at last know what they are going to call the accountancy levitation created by the merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse. For me it will be an anxious time made bear-



able only by some enlightened speculation. Let's see. What they want is a global name that says accountability to the man in the Bradford chippie and his counterpart in the Bratislava boardroom alike.

By a happy coincidence they already have one. Price Waterhouse would be an easy choice, it would be cheap, it would ensure the survival of the industry's best-known brand. So I think we can rule that one out...

Sea change

A CHANGE of name for South West Water, still identified by many with the quaint habit of poisoning its customers after its predecessors

troubles at Camelford a while back. So it will now be known as Pennon. This is known as doing a Windscale, after the much-feared Cumbrian nuclear facility that was rebranded as Sellafield, a tourist destination. But the poisoning was all a long time ago, so we must not be cynical.

A pennon is a long, tapering cavalry standard, of the naval equivalent, a pennant. It evolved from the feudal gonfalon — look, you're not really interested in all this, are you? The point is that South West Water's logo has long been a pointed flag, for some reason. It was cheaper to find a name that fits the logo than do it the other way around, which is what they usually do in corporate rebrandings.

MY COMMISERATIONS to the smaller insurance companies team at ABN Amro. A research document on Wellington Underwriting went out with a share price graph that actually featured the performance of something called Wellington Holdings, a tiddly rubber products company. (Anything to do with boots? Probably not). Unfortunately, because a) ABN Amro is broker to the underwriter, and b) the share price graph showed an abrupt decline, although the client has actually done rather well. Someone put in the wrong Datastream code?

Cold call

ASTONISHING news from Virgin. Richard Branson is opening a lounge at Euston station on Monday. And THERE WILL BE A PUBLICITY STUNT! He may even allow in photographers! I will spare you the details, but we are promised the Virgin ice sculpture will be wheeled out again to depict "the new Virgin Trains Silver Lady motif". I recall when Branson last used an ice sculpture of a naked woman to launch some product. And the trick with the vodka. No repetition of that, please, Richard.

MARTIN WALLER



"Can you spare a million roubles for a cup of tea?"



Charles Anson looks forward to working in broadcasting

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PAUL AMOS PHOTOGRAPHY

Time to make a move?

Britain won nearly a third of all European inward investment projects between January 1997 and March 1998 — twice as many as France, with Germany a poor third. But Ernst & Young, which surveyed the field in its report *Choosing your European Business Location*, published earlier this month, talks of growing competition from Eastern Europe and the location-mobile demands of multinational companies.

Continuing turmoil in South-East Asian economies is also causing concern. Black Horse Relocation's John Carolan already predicts rising interest from emerging "tiger" economies in Latin America. Ernst & Young, however, says the Government needs to consider updating grant programmes to match French and Irish offers. It identifies high-

David Crawford outlines the factors for companies to consider in relocating and deciding where to go

Volume manufacturers and value-based service-sector businesses as target sectors needing particular study. The Government has already taken one welcome step with the confirmation last week by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, of continuing roles for two key public agencies — the Commission for the New Towns (CNT) and English Partnerships (EP). One of the UK's largest owners of greenfield sites in the former new towns and urban development corporations, the CNT has devoted considerable attention to the needs of expanding as well as relocating companies. The regeneration-focused EP has wooed significant private investment to locations

such as Chatham Maritime in Kent by funding essential infrastructural and transport improvements. Its Strategic Sites Database, launched in February, is designed to generate wider international interest through an Internet-based "one-stop shop". The EP aims to meet growing global competition by offering a seamless location-funding service for sites which are ready to build one. A parallel "brownfields" programme aims to create a flow of additional sites from currently derelict land.

With business becoming increasingly location-independent, all potential sites now face searching assessment for added-value factors. Modern transport links are critical,

and airports figure largely in two developments at opposite ends of the country. Tinsley Park Ltd's Sheffield Airport Business Park has consent for 74,300 sq metre (0.8 million sq ft) of business and industrial space next to the UK's first regional city airport for 50 years. In Kent, Wiggins Group's Manston Park has attracted US engine specialist Cummins Power Generation and German autoware manufacturer Cohline next door to an airport which could expand rapidly if negotiations succeed with the Ministry of Defence for a former RAF aerodrome.

Environmental quality is another factor. Sharp Laboratories and Rand Information Systems's choice of the Prudential Portfolio Managers/Magdalen College Oxford Science Park for their European headquarters was influenced by masterplanners Robert Rummey Associates' "combination of landform, roads, water, landscape and buildings". Stability, of course, has immense appeal and Northern Ireland's attractions are set to shine brightly after the over-

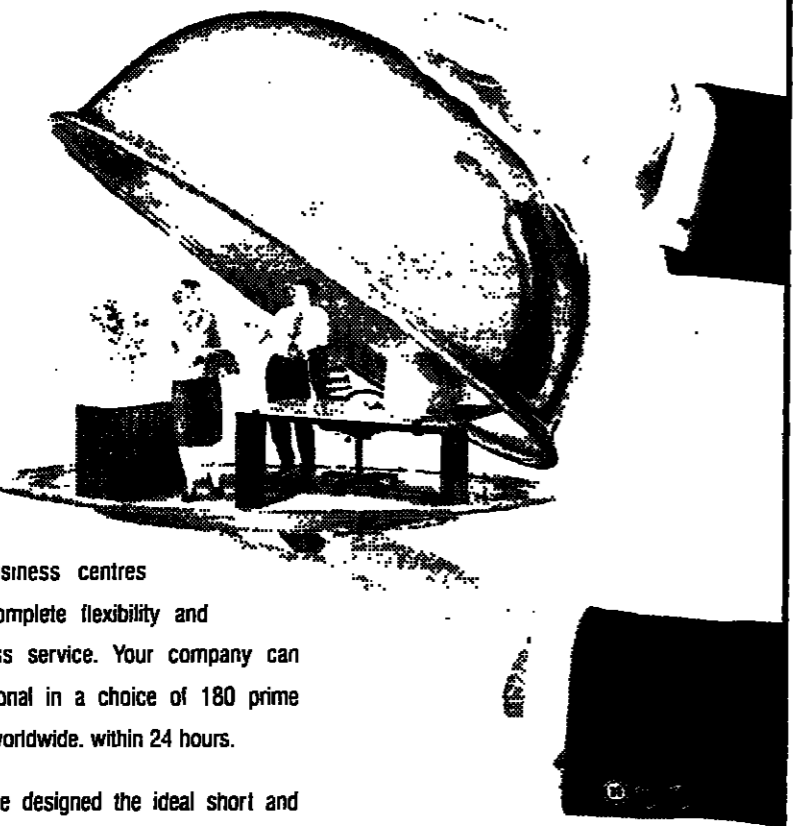
whelming "yes" votes in this month's referendums in both parts of Ireland. In the most comprehensive review of inward investment undertaken in the British Isles, by Coopers & Lybrand, three in four companies surveyed in Northern Ireland had already confirmed plans for expansion. At the same time, externally owned concerns had committed a record £522 million in 41 projects in the year to March 1998. The Province is now rated the UK's second most successful region for winning overseas investment.

Whatever site is chosen, relocation is expensive. The average UK move costs £9,300 per employee, and 44 per cent of UK companies use specialist agencies to help with staff moves. Personal considerations are attracting greater attention as employers count the cost of moves going wrong. Dual-income households are involved in more than 50 per cent of employee moves, says Black Horse Relocation, and as cross-frontier relocations of families as well as executives become more common, the costs and risks of failure can rise. Britain's Association of Relocation Agents (ARA) has helped set up the European Relocation Association (EuRA), to streamline the movement of people across and into Europe to match global investment trends.



Tony Freudmann of Wiggins Group, which has attracted investors to its Kent site

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The South: a capital place to do business

LONDON and southern England are expected to break records for inward investment when figures are presented to ministers in July, *John Grigsby writes*.

The region's advantages include easy access to the Channel Tunnel, a skilled workforce with a command of a wide variety of languages, and the bonus of the City of London, with its expertise in financial services. Michael Gooch, operations director for South East Regional Investment, which was recently created by the Government, says: "We are extremely pleased with the rate of inward investment. We are finding that the region has been successful in attracting firms interested in call centres, information technology, pharmaceuticals and financial services."

The location of the European Pharmaceutical Agency on the Isle of Dogs has attracted many international companies. For example, Norton Healthcare is building its headquarters in the Royal Docks, and Kent has attracted four of the world's top ten leading pharmaceutical companies: Abbott Laboratories in Queenborough; GlaxoWellcome in Beckenham; and Pfizer in Sandwich, while Rhône-Poulenc Rorer has its British headquarters at the new business park at Kings Hill, West Malling. CFS International, the American debt-collecting agency, will move into Kent shortly. Robert Ashmead, chief executive of Locate in Kent, the county's inward investment agency, says: "Our studies show that Kent is a top-quality location for business. People want to come here."

London is still the prime magnet for inward investment

However, the capital is still the prime magnet for inward investment. Since it was established in 1994, London First Centre, which is supported by councils and companies across the capital, has helped 180 firms from 20 countries to move to London or expand. Sir Michael Pickard, former chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), and chairman of London First Centre, the capital's inward investment agency, says: "We are

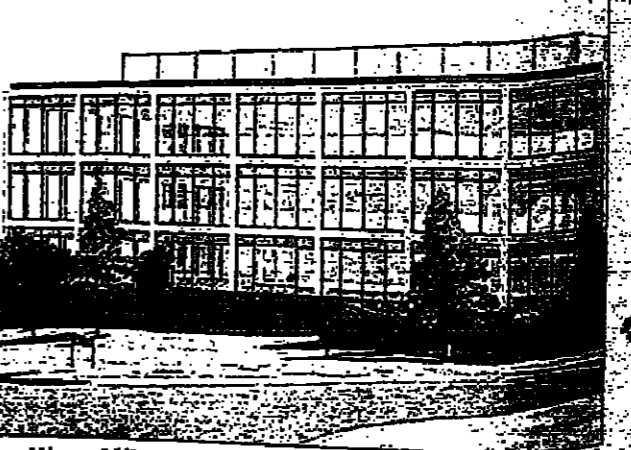
working hard with the other regions to promote Britain as a focus for inward investment. There is no question of competition between the regions. We work together." Sir Michael played a key part in cementing relationships between the LDDC, the City of London and the City of Westminster when the Square Mile became worried about the threat from Docklands.

This year in London alone, Utell, the Dutch company that operates hotel reservations, has moved into Sutton, Surrey, while WorldCom International, an engineering centre employing 100 people and Krueger International (UK) have located in Camden, North London.

Meanwhile, the East of England Investment Agency, established just over a year ago and covering Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, has attracted six overseas companies with the creation of 178 jobs. James Gray, the chief executive, says that the creation of the agency has resulted in a threefold increase in the number of inquiries to the region. The agency has surpassed its targets for its first year. "With the support of our regional colleagues we have a much more effective inward investment team. We have set challenging targets for our second year but are confident that we can meet them."

London and southern England have neither the sites nor, perhaps, the labouring workforce to attract heavy manufacturing. However, the record shows that together the regions constitute a global player when it comes information technology skills. Mitsubishi Electric's decision to base its European research and development centre in Britain owed much to the presence of Surrey University.

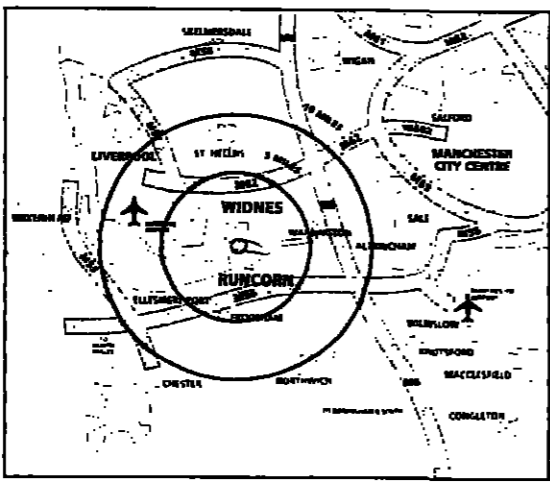
The Cambridge Science Park forms the nucleus of a cluster of 1,000 high-tech firms in the area. More than 1,300 overseas companies have moved into new towns. Milton Keynes alone has attracted more than 50 Japanese companies — the largest number outside London — before any financial inducements were introduced.



Kings Hill business park in Kent: a plum location

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Key role for new agencies

Craig Seton looks at progress in reducing the power of Whitehall

Nine new regional development agencies (RDAs) starting work next April will have a powerful role in co-ordinating strategies for inward investment, economic development and regeneration in the English regions.

The agencies are being set up as part of the Government's commitment to decentralise power. One of their main tasks will be to work with local businesses, councils, training and enterprise agencies and others to develop and implement an economic strategy for the urban and rural areas in their regions, including programmes to improve skills and business support. They will also integrate the work of existing inward investment and regeneration agencies in the regions.

One of the newer bodies, the West of England Development Agency, covering the former Avon area, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire, has helped to bring 26 new investment projects worth £175 million to the region over the past year. Almost 3,000 jobs have been created or safeguarded, all but five of which are from overseas, with America and Japan topping the list.

In the North, what is said to be the first new regional

airport in Britain for more than 50 years has started operations. The £6 million Sheffield city airport has been developed by Tinsley Park, a Sheffield-based property company, which is also creating an adjacent business park.

Daily scheduled services by KLM to Amsterdam started in February and are already carrying 1,000 passengers a week. Saturday summer charter flights are being operated by Jersey. Jon Horne, the airport's managing director, says that, with four million people within 40 minutes' drive, the airport plans more British and European routes.

The Commission for the New Towns (CNT) is making good progress in disposing of the property assets of the new towns and the former urban development corporations. The Nikon Corporation of Japan has bought one of its units in Milton Keynes for a £3 million ophthalmic lens laboratory to serve Europe.

Business Post, the express parcels company, has bought an eight-acre CNT site in Runcorn, Cheshire, for a £3.4 million northern distribution centre. Mi-King, an Anglo-Japanese joint venture steel company, is expanding its operation on a CNT site at Washington, Tyne and Wear. Wellstream North Sea, a mar-



Senior officials of three development agencies exchange ideas at a recent conference

ufacturer of subsea flexible pipe, is in its first year on a 240,000 sq ft site at Walker Riverside in Newcastle upon Tyne. The company has a full order book for 1998 and is producing pipe for a North Sea Norsk Hydro gas project.

Work has started to turn a former Boots Company printing works in Nottingham into a new European operations centre for Capital One, the American credit card com-

pany. The £30 million project, which will create 900 badly needed jobs, was won against fierce European competition and involved close co-operation between the Government's urban regeneration agency, English Partnerships, the East Midlands Development Company and Nottingham City Council.

The West Midlands Development Agency helped to win 71 overseas investment

projects worth almost £800 million in the year to March. They will create up to 5,200 new jobs and help to safeguard another 11,000. English Partnerships has launched a new Internet property database to give potential inward investors information about the best development sites available in England.

English Partnerships Website address: <http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk>

Scotland's calling

Welcoming accents and knowhow lure employers, says Alan Jenkins

Television's Rab C. Nesbitt should be proud of his fellow Glaswegians, for despite his spiky reputation, his countrymen possess the voices that everyone wants to hear for guidance and reassurance. Scotland is experiencing an explosion of call centres: there are now more than 120, and half their operators are in Glasgow.

Well-developed telecommunications and low operating costs are cited as reasons for Scotland's attraction, but one big factor is the quality of the workforce: there is a ready supply of highly skilled graduates, many with language qualifications. About 16,000 people are now employed in the call-centre industry and the figure is expected to double within two years.

Scotland has some of the biggest call centres in Europe — BskyB employs 1,500 at Livingston, and First Direct, the 24-hour telephone bank, expects to create 5,000 jobs in Scotland over the next six years. Dundee will benefit from 800 new jobs created at a BT Connections in Business Centre, and Denver-based Tele Tech Holdings is open-

ing its flagship European centre in Glasgow early next year, and promises 500 jobs.

The country is now attracting some of the most sophisticated operations, among them the IBM help centre at Greenock, which serves 15 countries in 11 languages.

The continuing economic crisis in the Far East has brought a halt to the projected billion-pound Hyundai development at Dunfermline, the future of which is still under review.

But the Scottish Office's agency Locate in Scotland is projecting another record year, notably from a big investment by the California-based electronics firm Cadence, a world leader in semiconductor design services. Cadence is behind the

Alba Centre, work on which has just begun at Rosebank, Livingston. It is already being hailed as "the cradle of a new industrial revolution", establishing Scotland as the premier location for electronics companies to design advanced "system-on-chip" semiconductors, which enable one chip to do the job of several.

The Livingston operation has three strands, involving Government, private capital and academia. Cadence will establish its chip design centre there: an independent trading house for semiconductor designs will be established; and four universities — Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt and Strathclyde — will collaborate in setting up the world's first System Level Integration Institute, to provide design engineers with new expertise.

The object of the technology is to "combine increasing numbers of hardware and software functions with ever-reducing dimensions on one chip".

Small may be beautiful to Cadence, but the hoped-for revolution on a 96-acre site at the heart of Silicon Glen is expected to lead to the creation of 4,000 jobs.

Business success means being in the right place at the right time.



Taiwan's Louis Wen-Hua Tzen, at Acer's Cardiff plant

Welcome for Asian firms

Despite the financial problems in Asia, Wales is continuing to attract investment from the Far East. "You can't group countries such as Japan, Korea and Indonesia together," says James Turner, the head of inward investment at the Welsh Development Agency (WDA). "The situation in each country is different."

Japanese manufacturers are continuing to expand in Europe. Earlier this year Toyota announced a £150 million investment at its Deeside plant in North Wales. This will create 310 jobs and double Deeside's capacity to 400,000 engines a year.

Panasonic has established its £15 million European research and development centre at Cardiff, creating 159 jobs. Next month the company will open its £13 million audio facility at Port Talbot, creating 285 new jobs.

Japan has had a manufacturing presence in Wales since 1973, when the plastics firm Takiron relocated to Caerphilly. Over the ensuing 25 years, 54 companies have moved in, investing £1.5 billion in Wales and creating 17,000 jobs. The Principality is Europe's largest manufacturing centre for Japanese consumer electronics.

To cement the relationship between the two countries, the Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Cardiff on Wednesday. They met two representatives from each resident Japanese plant — one Japanese and one British.

"We expect more Japanese investment over the next 18 months, particularly in the automotive sector," Mr Turner predicted. "By the millennium I expect that we will have welcomed our sixtieth Japanese company to Wales."

The Asian country least affected by the financial crisis is Taiwan. Wales's profile has been raised there following the computer manufacturer Acer's decision to establish its European manufacturing plant in Cardiff. The £25 million factory will create 1,000 jobs after

The turmoil of the Far East's economies has barely affected Wales, writes Iola Smith

construction is completed in July. Acer is Wales's second Taiwanese company. LG of Newport has been hitting the headlines, and Mr Turner is keen to disprove speculation that the £1.7 billion project is being delayed. "LG is happening," he insisted. "The electronics factory is up and running and has just recruited its thousandth employee. The semi-conductor plant is proceeding according to plan following the company's decision to change the specification of the chip that it will manufacture."

"Both plants are essential to LG's global plans. The company is a world player in chip production, so it has to have the plant."

One country that Wales is targeting is Australia. Nine businesses are already in residence, and the WDA is confident of attracting a couple more over the next 12 months. A similar number is also anticipated from Hong Kong.

With 145 resident companies, the United States remains a major source of investment. In addition to the automotive and electronics sectors, the WDA wants to attract service sector businesses such as core centres for this market. As a step in this direction, the Canadian media company Frontier is investing £20 million on converting Cardiff's historic Coal Exchange building into Europe's first multimedia village.

Europe is expected to deliver more projects. A German investment is due in the future, and the Italian presence is expected to expand.

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36 UNIT TRUST PRICES

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund type and name. Columns include fund name, price, and percentage change.

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OPERA Pure gold from the Gershwin brothers FACING PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS

POP Return to form for Smashing Pumpkins PAGE 40



Subtle as a rice pudding

While one might agree that people who earn a living working the market are socially less useful than backstreet pimps, this is not to say they should all be stoned to death. Molly Fogarty, author of this well-meant but fault-filled play, suggests stoning as an appropriate climax to a life raucously concerned with reaping profit from the disasters of others. Floods in China? Buy rice cheap, sell dear. A fortune for the canny operator: death for the starving Chinese.



Trouble brewing: David Suchet, Alexis Conran, Dearbhla Molloy and Gary Whitaker in Eduardo de Filippo's play

Tears in the kitchen

The situation is common enough, even in this post-feminist world. Mum, who takes pride in her cooking, feeds more and more taken for granted by Dad. Indeed, she cannot stop remembering the day he said that her daughter-in-law's macaroni was the best he had tasted. And Dad is increasingly vexed by the family friend who cannot stop showering Mum with overblown compliments. Indeed, he manages to convince himself that this loudmouth, a harmless accountant with a nice wife, is having an affair with her.

Judy Upton is no stranger to dark twists and tighter corners. Her ability to escape from both has won her two playwright awards: the George Devine for 'Ashes and Sand' and Verity Bargate for 'Carries'. Her latest play, 'Everlasting Rose', evades every expectation of being one of the jewels in the crown of the New Playwrights' Festival, but her hour-long offering about damaged love never fulfills the promise.

Pork Bellies

Croydon Warehouse

Exchange, first seen gorging on junk food and then prancing off to the bathroom to throw up. In case we don't get the picture, her gobbling is done to a background of grunting pigs. Trish is therefore a bundle of neuroses, but worse than this she is a pain in the ass. The script does not help Claire Smithies to give a performance that could be remotely called subtle but Smithies herself compounds the problem with her flourishes and snappy tone of voice.

Benedict Nightingale

The play is co-produced by Theatre Centre and The Hungry Grass, a company expressly formed by John O'Mahony to present this work. His performance as the decent old Irishman is precise, uncluttered and attractive to watch, as is Jac Lyn Te in her quieter role. The onstage bit is one of the better passages of Rosemarie Hutt's direction but she does not handle well the junctions between events real and imagined. The subject deserves a better play, with crisper development and scarier events, and without Trish beating her forehead and crying: "This is CRAZY!"

LONDON GARMEN: Sally Burgess makes a welcome return to the English National Opera singing the role of the passionate gypsy girl, a role which has won her great acclaim in America and Germany as well as at home. Dawn in Reck and John La Souchardiere jointly direct the new staging of Jonathan Miller's shrewd production of Bizet's tense, sensual tragedy. David Rendall sings the part of the besotted Don José. Noel Davies conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-452 6800). Opera tonight, 7pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hergle

ELSEWHERE BATH: A festival weekend devoted to contemporary music features a concert by the Kronos Quartet tonight (The

THEATRE GUIDE Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

Forum, 8pm). Directed works by John Adams and Terry Riley. Other highlights are two concerts in the Gaiety by the Arditi Quartet. The one tomorrow (8pm) includes a UK premiere by Francesco Coussolé, Adam and Schmitt. Festival Box Office: (01225 463362)

NEW RELEASES AFTERGLOW (15): Two interlocking complex stories of a young boy and moving romance, co-starring with great performance from Julie Christie and Nick Nolte. Director: Alan Rudolph. Criterion Picture House (011-315 4212). Screenplay: Robert Towne (011-315 4212). Screenplay: Robert Towne (011-315 4212). Screenplay: Robert Towne (011-315 4212).

CINEMA GUIDE Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them

WISMASTERS (18): 12th century mystery is brought back to the 21st century by a modern-day film, with Guy Pearce, Laurence and Andrew Dwyer. Director: Robert Kurland. UCI Whiteley (0171-437 0716). Warner (0171-437 4343)

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND by Peter Shaffer. Play by Peter Shaffer. Play by Peter Shaffer. Play by Peter Shaffer.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. Directed by Harold Prince. Directed by Harold Prince. Directed by Harold Prince.

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Whistle down the wind. Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jim Sherman new musical. Preview from 17 June 0171 476 0716.

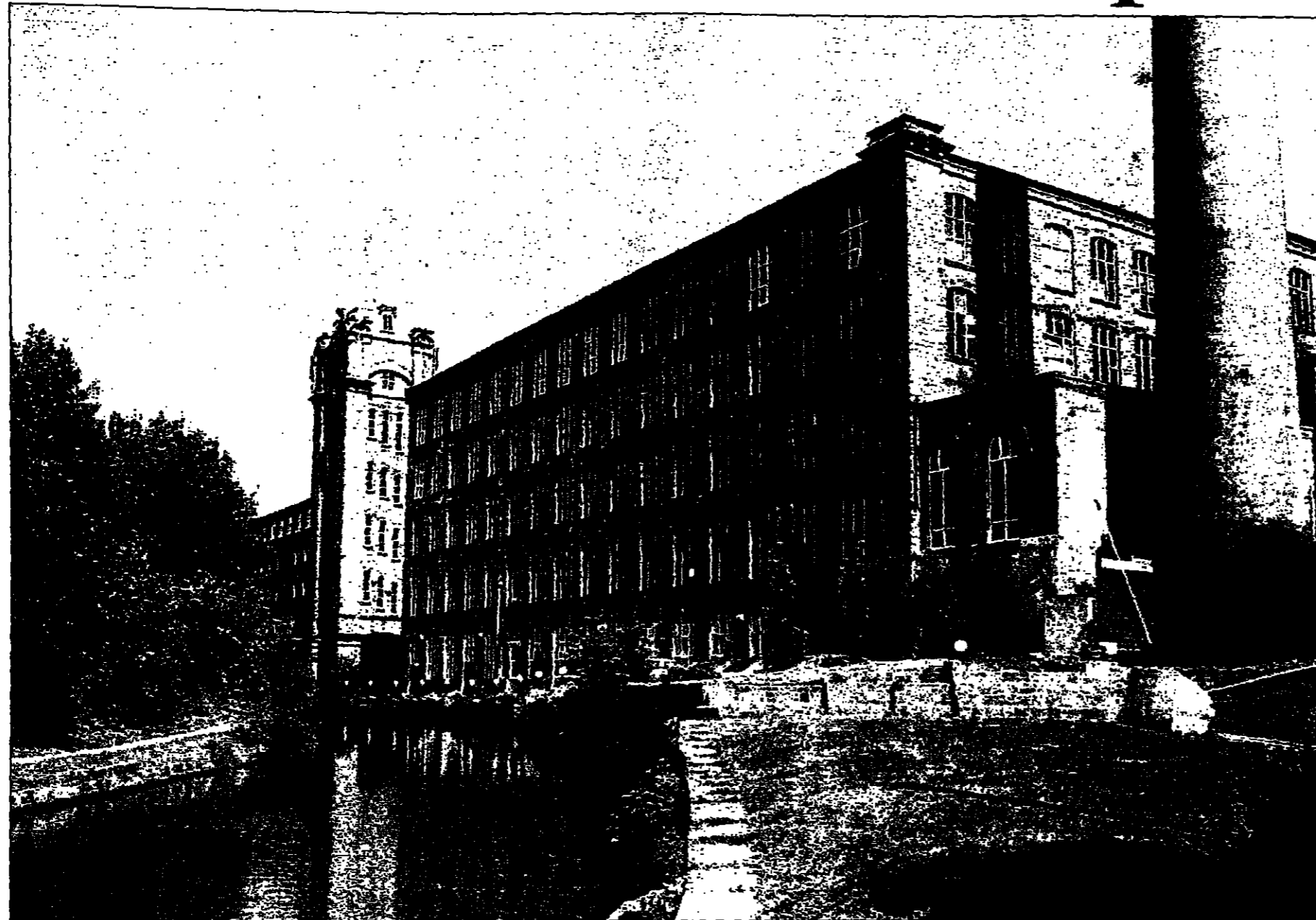
Pho THE TIMES FRIDAY. Spot the telecons... B... The competition is in the... Stage one is an open ideas... typical locations urban... country, and choose green... generalised locations at... The solutions should be... brations of place and... disguise masts or make... invisible. The jury will... which combine the practi... the imaginative. After an... awards ceremony, stage... see winning concepts... with Orange.

Whistle down the wind. Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jim Sherman new musical. Preview from 17 June 0171 476 0716.

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Whistle down the wind. Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jim Sherman new musical. Preview from 17 June 0171 476 0716.

Phone masts? What phone masts?



Spot the telecoms hardware: above, a mill in Bollington, Cheshire, restored with help from Orange, which added a mast to its central tower; right, one of Orange's "Scots pines"; below, Hull's restored lighthouse sports a new "flagpole"

By the latest calculations, Britain's four major mobile telephone networks have already erected some 14,000 masts across the country. And they are hungry for more. Which is why the Prince of Wales is supporting a new national competition to find visionary ideas for the design of mobile telephone masts.

The competition, the Orange Millennium Landmark Initiative, is launched by Orange plc in association with *The Times*. The Orange competition was prompted by a gauntlet thrown down by the Prince of Wales to find new ways of thinking about mobile telephone masts. Match the contribution of windmills, lighthouses, spires and market crosses to the landscape, said the Prince, who is patron of the initiative.

With up to 40,000 mobile telephone masts on the march in Britain, the task is to make them beautiful. Marcus Binney introduces the Orange design competition launched yesterday

The competition is in two stages. Stage one is an open ideas competition. Entrants are asked to consider typical locations (urban, suburban, country), and choose specific or generalised locations as they prefer. The solutions should be celebrations of place and not seek to disguise masts or make them invisible. The jury will favour ideas which combine the practical with the imaginative. After an autumn awards ceremony, stage two will see winning concepts developed with Orange.

Orange has already erected almost 4,000 masts, and expects to have more than 10,000 masts

marking across the country by 2001, on average some four miles apart. By the time the corporate aim of covering 95 per cent of Britain's land surface has been achieved, we look set to have up to 40,000 masts, placed on many of the highest points in the land so that they can talk not only to us but to each other as well.

Now take the fact that the tallest man-made structure in the world — in Poland — is a radio mast, rising 2,100ft. Add to this the fact that, in the booming 1980s, the Tories, anxious to help to speed the new mobile networks, exempted them from the need to obtain planning



permission for their masts. Now you can see why the Council for the Protection of Rural England says: "Their impact on the countryside, individually and cumulatively, can be devastating."

True, the exemption from planning permission extends only to masts which are less than 15 metres (49ft) high, with a sliding scale for masts placed on buildings. And there is an upside. First, many of these masts are attached to existing structures. In towns, they can go on roofs, on lampposts, surveillance camera poles, even on stadium floodlights. "Some of our widdies are no bigger than a burglar alarm

box," says Cellnet. Currently, 60 per cent of Orange masts are on shared structures — the BBC is one of its biggest partners.

Given the environmental sensitivities, disguise is also an occasional option — whether as special lampposts in towns or artificial trees in the country. Orange and Vodafone both have tree prototypes. Orange has a Scots pine design that sits discreetly on the edge of a wood within a little ring fence. Vodafone's first 70ft steel tree stands against a backdrop of Douglas firs between junctions 12 and 13 of the M4 at Yattendon, in an area of outstanding natural

HOW TO ENTER

- All entries must be in the form of:
 - two A1 sheets of drawings mounted on lightweight foam board
 - a written statement of up to 500 words
 - an entry fee of £10 (£5 for students).
- Entries should be sent to: Orange Millennium Landmark Initiative, The Economist Building, 25 St James's Street, London SW1A 1HA (information line, 07970 45111), to arrive no later than September 14, 1998.
- Prizes: Professional category — first prize £5,000, plus three commendations of £1,000. Student category — first prize £2,000, plus three commendations of £500. Community category — first prize £3,000, plus three commendations of £750.
- Following an award ceremony this autumn, selected designers will help to develop solutions for implementation.

Once antennae are installed, the buildings are not only put in good repair but protected from vandalism.

Most important of all, the mobile phone companies themselves have become sharply aware of the sensitivities of the issue. Cellnet recently announced the results of a competition among students, and is investing £250,000 in building two winning designs — a tripod-style mast which can straddle a road or river, and a glass-and-light variation on a skyline monopole.

Orange now follows with its own open competition, with three categories — for professionals, for the public, and for schools — ensuring the widest sweep of ideas.

The most popular tack among professionals will be for sculptural minimalism: slender, elegant masts intended to form graceful new landmarks. Richard Horden, the architect of the award-winning grandstand at Epsom, advises: "There should be a weight limit for each size of mast. Architects have a tendency to throw materials at a problem. They should team up with engineers and find ways of minimising the materials used. Success in engineering lies in using materials efficiently."

Richard Morrison is away. His weekly column will return next Friday

Nonsense makes sheer joy

Pure pleasure is one thing, but an element of surprise doubles it. Opera North announced a handful of concert performances of George and Ira Gershwin's 1931 musical to mark the composer's centenary, but the audience arrived on Wednesday to find that the money had somehow been found to stage the musical itself.

It's a simple staging — a helpful permanent set by Charles Edwards, basic direction by Caroline Gawn, thrifftastic period costumes by Nicky Gillibrand — and all the better for that: emphasis is firmly on the words and music. It is sung and spoken by real singers and carefully cast actors, there is not a whiff of otiose amplification, and this zippy, sophisticated, hypercivilised show could transfer to the West End tomorrow and run for months.

The piece itself is pure gold. The Gershwins adored Gilbert and Sullivan, and this is G&S for the 20th century. The plot is a delicious nonsense about a presidential candidate running on a love ticket, but just as in the best G&S there are some lethal lines in Ira's lyrics and in George S. Kaufman's and Morrie Ryskind's book, especially the mordant parodies of campaign speeches. One of them — "we appeal to your hearts, not your intelligence" — sounded rather too close to home for comfort, as did the fact that the campaign manager is a press baron.

Recent White House shenanigans made it all seem as topical as tomorrow's headlines. Someone telling the President that he "will go to the nearest lover in

OPERA
Of Thee I Sing
Grand, Leeds

about the executive office being "the most interesting room in the White House" was lost in gales of laughter.

One interesting aspect of the Gershwin partnership is the way Ira's words drive the music: it's not a matter of George simply dropping in a string of hit numbers, as in some earlier works. Acres of nonsensical plot are ingeniously set to witty, parodic music, and the songs are interestingly shaped, interwoven with deft counter-melodies. The score was gutsily conducted by Wyn Davies, and just as gutsily played by the English Northern Philharmonia, transforming themselves into a Big Band for

the occasion. The Opera North chorus disported themselves with boundless energy as beauty queens, newspaper reporters and much else. Is any other opera company in the world this versatile?

The singers include Kim Criswell as a Southern Belle who makes Scarlett O'Hara look like a shrinking violet, William Dazeley (fresh from Pelléas at the Opéra-Comique) as the President, and Margaret Preece as his true love.

Among the actors are Steven Beard, dazzlingly funny as Vice-President Throttlebottom, and Shane Rimmer, chilling as the media magnate. But you can't really tell which are actors and which are singers, and instead admire the work that has gone into their pointed, witty delivery of lines, spoken or sung. Yes, pure pleasure.

RODNEY MILNES

Lion-tamer in a vicious circus

On paper at least, Opera Circus looks just the company to stage an opera starring a lion-tamer. But Alasdair Nicolson's *Cat Man's Tale*, composed a year ago, is a much darker work than the producers realise or want to realise, with the result that this one-off performance during the BOC Covent Garden Festival seemed much longer than its 90 minutes. As there are no real animals in this circus no cruelty was shown, only a little heartlessness towards the audience huddled in the draughty Cochrane Theatre.

Based on Erica Wagner's short story *The Great Leonardo*, this Fellini-esque piece, set in both a church and circus encampment, tells of four characters each trapped in their own lurid isolation. The show promises to somersault the spectator from pulpit to circus ring, and indeed it does, but with far too much gag-driven energy. Opera Circus is one of those companies that inhabit the fringing regions of the music theatre world, and it is likely to remain there without better direction than the kind supplied by Peta Lily and Tina Ellen Lee. Jamie Vartan's circus-cage sets may have been basic, but they could have been filled with much more meaningful action.

A pity, for Nicolson's score matches the fragmented virtuosity of David Harrower's libretto well. One short scene folds into the next with ease: the composer, featured at this year's festival, writes with theatrical flair, and with vitality recalling Stravinsky's *Soldier's Tale*. Set to music for clarinet, cello and percussion, the vocal lines are sometimes angular but always singable.

The cast of singing actors was headed by Susan Bisatt as the trapeze artist afraid of coming down to earth. Roger Langford caught the plight of the lion-tamer losing his powers, Carole Irvine was strong as the strange woman who unsettles the priest (Bruce Evans) and drives him towards becoming a circus hand. All worked hard, as did the band led by Neyire Ashworth.

JOHN ALLISON

Cat Man's Tale
Cochrane

Giving voice to train tales

Harry Partch would have approved of *Different Trains*. The outcast pioneer composer (1901-74) of human speech and sounding bodies might have found in Steve Reich's visceral masterpiece one apotheosis of his vision. For where Partch, in works such as *US Highball: a musical account of Slim's Transcontinental Hobo Trip* (1943), also performed here, mixed vernacular-based narrative with raw accompaniment, Reich's Holocaust triptych grows from the very intonation of real speech.

Out of the artifice of speech sample, whistle sounds, string quartet and live players a

CONCERT
Kronos Quartet
Festival Hall

human tragedy emerges transcendent.

In *US Highball*, the fact that Slim's rambling monologue is delivered by a trained voice fighter with its native grit. And although there are arresting moments in this string quartet version — the rasping despair of bow on bridge, the rhythms tapped out on the cello's shoulder — the relationship between words and music was not organic.

While Partch's harmony is two dimensional, dry and dusty, fitting its subject, Reich is not afraid to weave a lavishly beautiful harmonic canvas.

To hear the Kronos perform *Different Trains* is to hear a uniquely seasoned interpretation. Despite the ruthless discipline imposed by the tape (which they recorded ten years ago), a seemingly spontaneous communion with their younger selves occurred. Violist Hank Dutt, in particular, shaped his warning phrases with eloquence, and all gave a freely emotional reading.

HELEN WALLACE

A quality show in the end

At first it seemed as though the opera-as-rehearsal virus, so dispiritingly prevalent at Glyndebourne, was catching the first act of Music Theatre London's new *Fledermaus* for the BOC Covent Garden Festival had a distinctly unfinished feel to it on Tuesday. Rodney Milnes writes.

In Tony Britten's engaging adaptation, Eisenstein is a city banker with a drink problem who has been booked into the Jeffrey Bernard Clinic, and Jeffrey throws a "come as you favourite film star" fancy dress party.

The production is both

Die Fledermaus
Ufonia Arts, WC2

fiantly elitist, introducing the Brotherhood ensemble with a cheeky reference to Sinatra before segueing into Sinatra-speak. There's much purposeful name-dropping — Richard Eyre, Peter Mandelson, Ann Widdecombe, Vivian Duffield and so on.

After the dim start, things look up in the second half with the amazing Simon Butteriss as the Artist Formerly Known as Prince Orlofsky doing his Liza Minnelli im-

"Clorinda Garrett-Anderson" in the programme barely disguises his return as Frosch, the matron-from-hell at the clinic who has recently returned from Saudi Arabia. In the performance stakes, the only real challenge to Butteriss comes from Liza Sadovy's dizzy Adele, who goes to the party as Marilyn Monroe, has the legs to carry it off, and sings everyone else off the stage.

But it's all good clean fun — well, fairly clean fun — and with some general tightening and redirection of the first act should delight audiences when it transfers to the Drill Hall for a run next month.

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POP ALBUMS Shed Seven surprises

ARTS

JAZZ ALBUMS David Sanchez's latest

A gentler side to the American Goths

THE SMASHING PUMPKINS

Adore (Hut HUTCD51 £14.49) DISTINGUISHED by their aloof manner and an American Gothic musical style swathed in layers of mystical complexity, the Smashing Pumpkins have become one of the ten biggest groups in the world while maintaining an imperious disregard for mainstream pop niceties. Never an act to do things by halves, they return after an absence of three years with Adore, which, while falling some way short of the monumental length of their six-million-selling double album, Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness, is still a work of considerable depth and substance.

The album is flagged by the sensational hit single 'Ava Adore', a love song with a malicious beat and an obsessive emotional undercurrent, which hinges on the line 'We must never be apart', sung by Billy Corgan with a Jaggeresque snarl that makes it hard to disentangle affection from aggression.

But it is not especially representative of the album as a whole and — with the notable exception of 'Tear', a magnificent song with a sad and sinister beauty, driven by a monster riff of vaguely Middle Eastern provenance — Adore is a collection of songs with comparatively gentle moods and subtle appeal.

NEW POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair falls under the Pumpkins' spell

The aching tune of 'Once Upon a Time' shored up by acoustic guitars and rambourines, is not untypical, while the use of drum loops (in the wake of the sacking of drummer Jimmy Chamberlin) lends a New Order-ish dance-rock feel to numbers including 'Apples and Oranges' and 'Perfect'.

Whether playing hard or soft, the Pumpkins have always made music that has to be pored over repeatedly before it even begins to surrender its charms, and this album is no exception. For those prepared to invest time and effort, Adore is likely to prove a richly rewarding experience.

ROD STEWART When We Were the New Boys (Warner 9362-46792 £15.49) IT MAY have seemed a good idea on paper to get Rod

Stewart to record a batch of songs originally performed by British acts of a more youthful and energetic disposition than the rapidly mellowing rocker himself. But for anyone hoping that the exercise might rekindle the spark of ragged genius that propelled Stewart and the Faces to international stardom in the 1970s, the resulting album, When We Were the New Boys, is strangely disheartening. For the most part his readings of numbers such as 'Cigarettes and Alcohol' (Oasis) and 'Rocks' (Primal Scream) are capable, if a little prim and literal. But faced with something more challenging, such as Skunk Anansie's 'Weak', Superstar's signature song, 'Supersize', or Nick Lowe's 'Shelly My Love', Stewart reverts to stodgy, Los Angeles rock-cabaret mode, while his only new composi-

tion, the title track, is a windswept, celtic power ballad in a depressingly familiar vein.

He fares better on a return visit to the Faces' 'Ooh La La', although it is still a second-division song. Only once does he truly hit the mark, with a raucous version of Graham Parker's 'Hotel Chambermaid', a gloriously unconstructed rock'n'roll song that will set hearts aflutter whenever lads of a certain age get together to raise a glass to the good old days.

SHED SEVEN

Let It Ride (Polydor 557 359 £15.99) IN MUCH the same way that the Charlatans were routinely written off as a bunch of workaday Manchester also-rans, irrespective of the quality or success of their records, so Shed Seven have been consistently undervalued thanks to their 'fallure' to square up to the goliaths of Britpop. But their last album, A Maximum High, sold a quarter of a million copies, and their latest effort, Let It Ride, may surprise those who bother to give it a fair hearing.

For despite the trad, guitar-band sound and casual, unpretentious approach of pub-rock songs such as 'Let It Ride' and the big-hearted road-ballad 'Devil in Your Shoes', there are plenty of strong, thoughtful choruses and ambitious arrangements notably on 'Return and The Heroes', and the album as a whole has an alert, uplifting feel.

It is very hard to make such dyed-in-the-wool rock'n'roll sound as fresh as this: a lot easier to dismiss it as old hat. Perhaps it is time to offer a bit of encouragement instead.

BARRY ADAMSON

As Above So Below (Mute CDSTUMM161 £15.49) 'I'M HERE to change the total course of the world,' Barry Adamson sings in a deep grumble on 'What It Means', a savage piece of high-voltage, small-band swing that defines the twin themes of salvation and damnation that dominate his new album, As Above So Below.

He may not have changed the world, but whereas Adamson's pseudo-jazz-noir soundtracks to imaginary movies were once a novelty,



The Smashing Pumpkins: past masters of aloof mysticism offer up songs of subtle appeal and sinister beauty

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (1) Blue... Simply Red (East West)
- (2) Where We Belong... Boyzone (Polydor)
- (3) Talk On Corners... Coors (Atlantic)
- (4) International Velvet... Catatonia (Blanco Y Negro)
- (5) Life Thru A Lens... Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
- (6) All Saints... All Saints (London)
- (7) Ray Of Light... Madonna (Maverick)
- (8) Urban Hymns... Verve (Hut)
- (9) My Way - The Best Of... Frank Sinatra (Reprise)
- (10) Version 2.0... Garbage (Mushroom)

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Figures in brackets denotes last week's position

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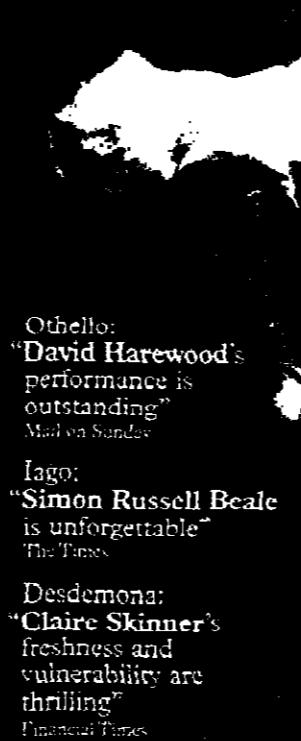
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Desdemona: "Claire Skinner's freshness and vulnerability are thrilling"

Rich in Latin accents

DAVID SANCHEZ Obsession (Columbia CK 69116)

DRAWING on classic compositions from Brazil and Cuba (plus US jazzman Ray Bryant), as well as from his native Puerto Rico, the tenor/soprano player David Sanchez has produced a series of deeply respectful but arrestingly vigorous performances for this, his fourth Columbia album.

His core band — pianist Edsel Gomez, bassist John Benitez, drummer Adam Cruz, plus percussionists Pernelle Saturnino and Richie Flores — are occasionally supplemented by elegantly tasteful arrangements by Carlos Franzetti, but whatever the forces around him, Sanchez combines, in his rhapsodic, rich, full-bodied

JAZZ ALBUMS

Winter release, with alto player Greg Osby, their chatty duo improvisations propelled by the lithe bass of Michael Formanek and the funky tumbling drums of John Arnold, Thomas has settled for the dry, restless sound associated with M-Base.

Whether he is playing gutsy tenor or unusually powerful flute, Thomas establishes an impressive rapport with Osby, and injects more life into his own compositions than their somewhat flat-sounding theme statements promise. Although his terse, muscular sound is best experienced live, this album goes a long way towards capturing the essence.

Sharing frontline duties on this, his first Winter &

JAZZ ALBUMS

GARY THOMAS Pariah's Pariah (Winter & Winter 910 033-2) IN MORE than a decade of recordings as a leader, the Baltimore-born reedsman Gary Thomas has provided a tour d'horizon of contemporary jazz styles, from rap and funk to interpretations of standards, all drawing on anything from Malcolm X slogans to urban sci-fi to underline his musical message.

Sharing frontline duties on this, his first Winter &

JAZZ ALBUMS

Whether he is playing gutsy tenor or unusually powerful flute, Thomas establishes an impressive rapport with Osby, and injects more life into his own compositions than their somewhat flat-sounding theme statements promise. Although his terse, muscular sound is best experienced live, this album goes a long way towards capturing the essence.

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THE TIMES

POP Who needs the

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Paul Sexton

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POP

Who needs the big labels?

From major to minor

Paul Sexton on the recording artists who are beating the big record labels at their own game

For every marriage between artist and giant recording corporation that brings mutual happiness, countless others end in messy divorce. For those musicians who attempt to keep their careers alive on an independent budget, the reduction in circumstances can be traumatic and fatal. For them, how strange the change from major label to minor.

While the likes of George Michael and The Artist Formerly Known For His Talent have played out high-profile battles with their paymasters over creative ownership, less fetid talents have been fighting for their future with a little direct-marketing savvy and a lot of elbow grease.

Ani DiFranco has achieved her folk-punk notoriety by her own rules, having started her Righteous Babe label at the age of 20 and sold close to a million records in the US in the past seven years without the supposed benefit of a major-label infrastructure. Her American fan club is now 40,000 strong. Here, DiFranco's records are licensed to

Cooking Vinyl, the modest but respected independent label to which XTC turned after a protracted and acrimonious departure from their long-time home at Virgin.

Last week, the Welsh singer-songwriter Martyn Joseph released *Tangled Souls*, his second album for the indie label Grapevine, which routinely achieves healthy sales for a roster that also includes Emmylou Harris, Christy Moore and Mary Black with the use of assiduous database marketing and a specialist approach beyond the ken of many majors.

Joseph came to prominence in 1992 on Sony Music's Epic label, but for all the width of their wallet and some early chart success, his career is in ruder health in his current, more modest surroundings. Epic signed Joseph after he sold close to 30,000 copies of a self-financed album at his own concerts and through specialist shops and mail order. With rich irony, the album he then made for the major, *Being There*, sold far fewer copies. "My manager used to tell people I was the only guy who took a drop in income to sign with a major label," laughs the affable Joseph, who nevertheless stresses his gratitude for the platform they provided. "When you sign with a big

company, you're suddenly catapulted into a world that's so different. Suddenly you're talking about making an album with an unlimited budget, and you just think, wow, this is great."

Sony spent £85,000 on the video for Joseph's Top 40 hit, *Dolphins Make Me Cry*. He says: "The burden on your balance, next time they come to decide whether they're going to keep you on, is enormous—that's £85,000 for a four-and-a-half-minute film that got shown twice. You're being measured on how much money they've spent, not what your potential is."

Joseph's deal with Grapevine is cut from more durable cloth. He leases them his albums, receiving advances on commencement and delivery, and while benefiting from their distribution and marketing, is also free to market his music with his own, highly personal services.

"When I signed with Sony, I had a mailing list of about 4,500 people, which I handled myself. As a result of all the support tours I did, where we put postcards on the seats, by the time I left Sony I had a mailing list of 15,000."

"So, influenced by Tom Robinson, who had a mailing list called the Castaway Club, I started one up called the Passport Queue. I charge £5 a year, and for that they get four really nice magazines, a free gift for signing, and other bits and pieces, and it enables me to keep in touch."

Another act making a bold fist of their post-major period are the New Zealand band the Mutton Birds. Touted for ten minutes by Virgin as the new Crowded House, they actually managed to double their sales base during their time with the label. But in an age when artist development fights the self-enn-quick-or-move-them-on mentality, the group were "let go" a few months ago.

"Bands are quite fragile things," says the Mutton Birds' frontman and songwriter, Don McGlashan. "Money talks pretty loud, and if someone's given you a bunch of it, and they look very likely to withdraw their support at a moment's notice, then all of that good glue that keeps a band together can get pretty thin."

Thankfully, the band's inter-



Direct-marketing savvy and elbow grease: Ani DiFranco and Martyn Joseph

ARTS

TOMORROW

Michael Frayn's latest

The yolk in the egg-white of life

If Elliott Smith's an Oscar-nominated songwriter, where are his orchestra and 17 producers?

Outside, the air is rain. The sky is a terrible yellow. The pavements are soaked right through to black. Inside, the restaurant is painted the colour of Spanish oranges, and filled with bowls of crumpled poppies. The shiny, swollen samovar steams quietly in the corner. The customers are glossy-haired London cosmopolitans: expensive sensible shoes and expansive hand gestures. They air-knit as they chat. This is a warm place. A dry place. A cheery place. A non-smoking place.

We are standing outside, under the broken awning. Elliott is smoking a cigarette, hands all cupped and furtive. Interestingly, we are finding broken awnings aren't merely the absence of awnings: they are negative-awnings, anti-awnings. They funnel. They funnel drips so large that to call them "drips" seems prissy and shy. These are big blobs of pond; huge ovoid bathfuls of ploppy, droopy flood. Each one smacks the head; flattens the hair; causes the eyebrows to flow in an uncomfortable downwards direction; dents the eyelashes.

Save for the odd awkwardly running office girl, trying to save her hairspray with an *Evening Standard*, the streets are deserted. A street-cleaner rolls by; a sudden sucking rush at the gutters, and then a fading, comforting hum. We watch it come. We watch it go. My hair gets a bit worse. Elliott's cigarette goes out.

"This is an Elliott Smith moment, isn't it?" I say to Elliott Smith. "Yeah, I guess so," he says. And then he gives a little shy, creeping smile. Smith nearly won an Oscar for being good at Elliott Smith moments. Five

of his songs are used in *Good Will Hunting*; one of them, *Miss Misery*, was nominated as Best Original Song. An Oscar-nominated songwriter.

You just don't meet Oscar-nominated songwriters who aren't Celine Dion. And, unlike Dion, her 17 producers and her hysterical 1,600-piece orchestra, *Miss Misery*, like all Smith songs, is just Smith and his guitar. Finger-picked Nick Drake melancholia. Vague country-folk, washed in inky blue blues: like Simon and Garfunkel trying to be Big Stars. And on his new

when I went solo, I suppose the relief of being able to sing real quiet and kind of personal, just sort of..."

Smith was brought up in Texas ("I hate hot places") and moved to the dripping conifers of Portland, Oregon when he was 15. *Whit!* Heatmiser were pretty much ignored, his solo albums, *Elliott Smith and Roman Candle*, gathered press squealings and a warm public greeting. When Heatmiser got a major-label deal, however, Smith was obliged to tour with a band he no longer cared for. A year and a half ago, the band imploded at the same time as his relationship with his girlfriend, and Smith moved to New York, where he didn't know a soul.

"It was already a bad time, so I thought I'd make it worse," he says, a huge raindrop exploding on his shabby brown anorak. "It was a mental phase I knew I'd have to have at some point, so I just wanted to make it intense but quick, rather than dragging it out."



CAITLIN MORAN

album, *Either/Or*, that *stared-but-wired, midsummer pre-dawn White Album* feeling. "I like to write songs watching the TV with the sound turned down. It adds to that... dreamlike air," he explains.

Smith is also a paragon of aural space manipulation: his sound hangs isolated, suspended. Like a rich, dense yolk surrounded by an egg-white of white-noise and soft ambient hiss. His voice is just a breathy whisper. It's like having an Oscar-nominated invisible friend in your wardrobe, singing you to sleep.

"Well, I used to have to shout against the... rock... in my old band, the unlamented US rockthing, Heatmiser," he says. "So

He drank, read Tolstoy and Dos- toevsky, and went out to gigs by little bands in dank cellars every night; as sure a way to stoke misery's fever as wrapping yourself up in a sleeping bag and sleeping jammed up between two radiators.

"And then I suddenly got bored of drinking... and I got back together with my girlfriend," he smiles again, still shy. "That's why this album is more upbeat than the others." He gives another grin — wicked this time.

"You weren't expecting a happy ending from me, were you?"

● *Either/Or* is out on Monday on Domino Records

You're measured on how much they've spent

Through a purple haze

An overpowering fug of marijuana smoke hung over Brixton Academy for the all-day *Essential Reggae Festival*, but through the haze a fascinating overview of the state of contemporary reggae emerged. In the foyer the sound system tradition was boomingly represented by Jah Shaka, mixing heavy trance-like dub and

LIVE GIG

crazed sound effects, while upstairs internationalism was displayed in dub-faced DJ sets from British Asian acts Joi and Asian Dub Foundation, and the eclectic fusions of Transglobal Underground. On the main stage Levi Roots and Earl 16 presented routine roots reggae fare. *Starky Banton* and *Macka B* represented the more modern developments of reggae and dancehall, heavily influenced by American rap (although arguably hip-hop was originally inspired by the Jamaican toasters). The Birmingham-based *Macka B* are widely regarded as one of the most articulate and witty practitioners, yet their two raps were merely crude and dreary.

Augustus Pablo is a Jamaican legend whose strange dub sounds and eerie playing of the melodica shaped the 1970s roots reggae movement. If his style seemed dated, there was an undeniable spiritual quality lacking elsewhere. The other legend on view was Lee "Scratch" Perry, at the very heart of Jamaican music for 40 years. These days he is notably eccentric, pacing the stage in a series of strange hopping steps while his quavering voice sounded almost like a novelty act.

It fell to a non-Jamaican act to produce the event's high point. Lucky Dube, the dreadlocked South African reggae singer, turned in easily the most professional and dynamic performance — a compelling example of how the best black music can cross-pollinate between its African roots and Caribbean transplantation, and then return.

nal adhesive is holding well. The Mutton Birds are now successfully running their own show. "We're now playing to audiences greater than when the Mutton Birds were signed to Virgin," says their manager, Steve Hedges. Expanding creative energy on such a defiant stand certainly beats waiting for big record companies to change their spots. "With a major," says Hedges, "you're dealing with a rich uncle who will decide when he's going to give you something and when he isn't. And you may get written out of the will at any point."

● *Martyn Joseph's Passport Queue*: PO Box 37, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 1EN. *The Mutton Birds*: PO Box 16936, London, N2 9WH. They play the Point, Oxford, tonight; Moles, Bath, tomorrow; *Blackheath Concert Halls on Sunday*; and the LA2 in London on Wednesday.

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Blair embraces Magazine Woman

Dawn Bêbe is advising Downing Street on women. Interview by Carol Midgley

Last month Tony Blair was host at an evening reception in his apartment in Downing Street. It was a serious affair, far less glibly than the Prime Minister's Cool Britannia shindigs, at which champagne is conspicuously consumed with the likes of Noel Gallagher and Harry Enfield. This time the guests were not celebrities but the editors of Britain's women's magazines. New Labour, they were told, was anxious to talk to the modern woman. One of those editors, Dawn Bêbe of *New Woman*, was later invited back for a second meeting at which she briefed Blair and his advisers, all eager to learn about Britain's many magazines and their different readerships.

The Government's moves, Bêbe believes, herald its determination to use such titles as *New Woman*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle* and *Marie Claire* as a direct line to women. The editors were told that the Government wanted more in-depth and balanced reports of its policies than it tends to get from newspapers.

If this is so, Blair is clearly untroubled by a recent report from the Social Affairs Unit, which berated women's magazines for nurturing a "depressing culture of trivia, self-obsession and sexual aggression". The right-wing think-tank lamented that there was "coarseness, savagery and voyeurism in the monotonously sexual language of Magazine Woman".

Indeed, Downing Street's decision to invite back Ms Bêbe, whose magazine prides itself on its earthy, irreverent



Dawn Bêbe, the Editor of *New Woman* who was called to Downing Street, believes that women are turning away from tabloid newspapers but remain loyal to magazines

approach and each month boasts a regular "Weird Willy" spot, indicates that Blair is more than willing to embrace the liberated world of Magazine Woman.

During the general election campaign, Labour advertised extensively in women's magazines and, soon after her husband came to power, Cherie Booth edited an edition of *Prima* magazine. This month Blair, interviewed by Eva magazine, talks about the difficulty of giving his children a normal life in Downing Street.

Bêbe, 32, whose magazine last week won the Periodical Publishers Association's Consumer Magazine of the Year award, says: "I think the Government has realised that magazines are an extremely influential means of talking to women. [The Government knows women] have an awful lot of power and influence. Women are starting to turn away from tabloid newspapers, but they are staying with magazines."

"The reception was a way of opening up the channels of communication between them

and us. The Conservatives didn't work in the same way. Labour has a lot of female MPs and I think it is trying to have a more democratic and personal approach to us, although of course we are all journalists and we have to keep a degree of journalistic scepticism."

During their soiree, the editors spoke to ministers, including Harriet Harman

the media interview

and Tessa Jowell. "Each one was keen to say 'We have lots of good intentions, and we are very keen that people should know about them'." Bêbe says. "I got the impression they thought their message was sometimes sensationalised by the tabloids, and they wanted to use us to get it across as well. They were very interested in issues such as lone parenting, child-

care and women's health and how we deal with it in the magazines."

Bêbe outlined to her hosts some new research, the "quality of readership" survey, which says a reader will pick up the same magazine from two to eight times and read it thoroughly. "It is all about the depth of the read, compared to a newspaper, which will probably get thrown away at the end of the day."

"When someone has paid £2 for a magazine, they want something that is beautifully produced that they can keep

going back to. They want it to be a real treat and a bit of a laugh as well as being factually informative. That is why that Social Affairs Unit report was so off-beam."

"Magazines are supposed to be entertaining, they are an indulgence. In the past 20 years the definition of being a real woman seems to have become being an intellectual woman to some people. But the trick is knowing your reader, and our readers want a laugh as well as being informed about serious issues. I spoke to one of the people

who wrote that report and they admitted that they had never read *New Woman*. I thought that was pretty poor for a so-called authoritative report on the women's magazine market."

Bêbe, former Editor of *Bliss*, Emap's glossy monthly for teenage girls, took over at *New Woman* in 1996, when the magazine was degenerating into frumpiness. The last issue before she joined sold 175,000 copies. Now it regularly sells about 270,000.

"We basically threw it in the bin and started again and aimed to make it more gutsy and modern and irreverent. We brought in a new design and made it much more glamorous. Then we defined our target as the woman with responsibilities and a hangover."

"We asked what were all the lifestyle issues confronting a modern woman — love, friends, money, work, moving, health — but decided to come at it from a humorous point of view. We are down-to-earth, not too idealistic or removed from the reader. I think our strength is that we talk to them in their own language which, believe it or not, is unique to magazines."

"Women are being offered more choice in their lives than at any other time. There is so much choice it is almost bewildering. They can get married but they don't have to, they can have kids but they don't have to, they can have a career but they don't have to. Our challenge is to try to address all these issues, but without being didactic or patronising."

While some magazines might trill "Look gorgeous for Christmas", *New Woman* would more modestly say "Look half decent for Christmas", she says. "We are much more realistic and it has worked."

This month's *New Woman* tantalises the reader by offering to decode their sex dreams, tell them how to "bust their belly" and provide some effective putdowns to former boyfriends. A copy is winging its way to No 10.

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Pay now

BBC governors are stalling themselves to ask for a large increase in the licence fee to ensure that the corporation can flourish in the new digital age. It may seem a bit since April 1, pay a £97.50 fee — up from £91.50 last year. But the rise, based on the retail prices index plus 3 per cent, is exceptional and designed to produce an extra £100 million for its digital ambitions. The BBC naturally believes it provides excellent value — though very few services benefit from new services such as News 24. One problem is that the corporation's commercial side has failed to prosper. Secondly, a flat-rate levy bears heavily on the poor. Thirdly, a big rise will drain away cash from new pay-as-you-view services, also part of the digital future.

THE case for a new BBC deal could be helped by a



Lord Winston and participants



Aid agencies are angry that, despite efforts to make the reporting of humanitarian crises more sophisticated, the same old images of helpless African victims are broadcast.

Is this aid pornography?

Few who watched it will ever forget Michael Buerk's powerful report, with unbearably moving footage of emaciated adults and dying children, from Ethiopia in 1984. His broadcast brought the terrible reality of famine into the front rooms of the Western world, and galvanised an appeal that raised millions for famine relief. The assumption at the time was that the relationship between television and aid organisations could only be beneficial. The media provided the publicity and raised support for relief groups dedicated to alleviating the suffering. More than a decade later, the faces of the hungry in southern Sudan have returned to our television screens, but the relationship between the media and aid organisations has soured. In *The Guardian* this week, George Alagiah, the BBC Africa correspondent, accused aid agencies of creating a conspiracy of silence about the extent of the Sudanese situation. They had decided, he said, that despite his graphic footage, the crisis did not merit a national appeal. He also accused the agencies of "news management" and of becoming too hierarchical to listen to their workers in the field. In turn, aid agencies have claimed that Alagiah's reports from Sudan for the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News* are out of context. Many are angered that despite efforts to make the reporting of humanitarian crises more sophisticated, the same old images of helpless victims in Africa are being broadcast.

Journalists and aid agencies must forge a difficult alliance during humanitarian crises, **Bridget Harrison** reports

Ron McCullagh, a reporter who spent eight days in Sudan preparing a report for *Channel 4 News*, broadcast two weeks ago, claims that much television coverage of Sudan has been shallow and lacking in content. "A lot of people have described some of the news reports as aid pornography. I would agree with them," he says. Memories are still raw among those who worked in Rwanda and during the subsequent refugee crisis in the Great Lakes region in 1996-97. With hindsight, both groups realised that they made a lot of mistakes. The media accused aid agencies of speculating about and exaggerating death rates, and of having supported the genocidal forces in the refugee camps. The agencies, in turn, blamed the media for filing partial and distorted reports in which facts had not been checked; for "parachuting in" journalists who had no fundamental understanding of the crisis; and for failing to report the fate of thousands of refugees missing in eastern Zaire. During a complex crisis, the alliance forged between journalists and aid agencies is usually necessary but fraught. For journalists, aid agencies often provide the easiest form of

access to a disaster area, are usually the source of the most up-to-date information, and can provide protection and facilities in the field. Furthermore, for viewers and readers back home, it is the difficult agency work in the field that provides the most obvious narrative for a news story. The pressure on aid agencies to keep their activities high-profile, and thereby sustain donor support from both governments and individuals, has made charities increasingly aware of the media. Although this symbiotic relationship has worked effectively, developments during the Nineties have strained relations. Yesterday senior journalists and representatives from leading aid agencies attended a conference in London - "Disasters in Disaster Zones" - to discuss the reporting of major emergencies. Nik Gowing, an experienced war correspondent, prepared a background paper for the conference on the management of information on the eastern Zaire crisis in 1996-97. It identified the pressure on broadcasters of "real-time" technology which allows virtually immediate access to correspondents in the field, and noted

the proliferation of channels screening broadcasts day or night. These factors make accurate media coverage more difficult for both journalists and aid agencies. When Buerk made his trip to Ethiopia, he had an entire plane journey in which to polish his report. But during the Rwanda crisis, BBC correspondent talked of having to file live reports up to 30 times a day to feed a 24-hour news cycle, which makes access to new information a constant demand. Such pressure allows a correspondent virtually no time for "reporting" and checking. In Zaire in 1996, aid agencies accused the media of creating "a frenzy of speculation". The media in turn complained of being used by rival agencies so desperate for publicity that they manufactured information. In addition to the scope for inaccuracies, aid agencies and journalists also complain that bulletins averaging 50 to 90 seconds give little scope for dispatches to be placed in context. In Gowing's report, Fergal Keane, the BBC news correspondent, describes a TV reporter as becoming "a pack donkey, capable of bearing huge loads but braying a forlorn gibberish every time he opens his mouth". Combine these pressures with a crisis situation, where journalists are

already operating within a politically complex environment, under severe physical and psychological pressures, and it is not difficult to see how relations can be strained. Added to this, another, perhaps more sinister, revelation came out of the Great Lakes experience. Gowing's report suggests that warring factions are becoming increasingly information-savvy, and were able to manipulate the information used by journalists and agencies. This is a grim reminder that any intervention in a humanitarian crisis, including the exchange of information that accompanies it, will have a political as well as humanitarian effect. Don Reeding, the conference co-ordinator, who represents the ten UK humanitarian organisations involved, says that the biggest mistake made in Rwanda was to depict the crisis as a lawless outpouring of ancient tribal hatreds, instead of the politically organised genocide that it was. "In Rwanda, the refugee crisis became a purely humanitarian story, but the relief effort was only one component of the crisis." To prevent mistakes such as this happening again, he and Gowing emphasise the imperative of moving away from the traditional "template" of how large-scale disasters are portrayed - through "human-relief" stories - instead of as the political stories that they invariably are. "When we go into southern Sudan," he says, "we must be talking about what is specific about Sudan, not generic about starving Africans."

The relief effort was only one component of the crisis'

Spin on Japan

The veteran cricket writer E.W. Swanton, who was a Japanese prisoner in the Second World War and worked on the infamous Burma-Siam Railway, wrote an article for *The Daily Telegraph* on Wednesday in which he pointed out that the survivors who turned their backs on Emperor Akihito of Japan this week were a minority. The majority kept their thoughts to themselves, he said, and the Lord's Prayer made the Christian's hard duty of forgiveness plain. Swanton cited the example of Eric Lomax, whose award-winning book *The Railway Man*, described his suffering under the Japanese but also how he had subsequently been reconciled with his chief torturer. It is a harrowing book that few could read without concluding that there comes a time when we



and fully apologise for the anti-Western culture of the 1930s? Two newspapers stood out from the pack in promoting reconciliation. The words that amounted to the Emperor's apology were published across eight columns at the top of the front page of *The Times*. Its headline (note the last two words) said: "A day of protest and reconciliation." There was also a picture of a smiling Burma Railway survivor showing his medals to a Japanese mother and child, and a leading article arguing that the Emperor's mission was unmistakably one of conciliation. *The Independent*, however, was the only newspaper to argue the case for forgiving and forgetting. "Time and crime have moved on," it argued. It also published an article by John Casey, the Cambridge don, who suggested that the British were turning into "rather a small people" by remembering the past so selectively and visiting the sins of the father upon the son's blameless head. At 28, Alison Roberts had the best answer. In the *Evening Standard*, to the attention given to the pacifist minority, she represented the post-war generation, she said, and wondered when an older generation was going to stop going on about the war. Venerable newspaper columnists had crudely insulted a foreign visitor who had nothing to do with atrocities 50 years ago. She made a good point - and aren't newspaper editors supposed to be trying to attract young readers? Most certainly forgot about them this week.

Pay now, view later for digital dream

BBC governors are steeling themselves to ask for a large increase in the licence fee to ensure that the corporation can flourish in the new digital age. It may seem a bit rich to ordinary viewers who, since April 1, pay a £97.50 fee - up from £91.50 last year. But the rise, based on the retail price index plus 3 per cent, is exceptional and designed to produce an extra £100million for its digital ambitions. The BBC naturally believes it provides excellent value - though very few homes benefit from new services such as News 24. One key problem is that the corporation's commercial side has failed to prosper. Secondly, a flat-rate levy bears heavily on the poor. Thirdly, a big rise will drain away cash from new pay-as-you-view services, also part of the digital future. THE case for a new BBC deal could be helped by a

change at the top. It's common knowledge that Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, is less than effusive in his praise for the current order. And that Labour, in opposition, was sharply critical of the appointment of the Chairman, Sir Christopher Bland. But after Smith's address to the governors' annual summit last week, the BBC played a master stroke: Sir Richard Eyre, the respected former director of the National Theatre and a BBC governor, was given the floor to defend its track record. Meanwhile, most broadcasters now believe Lord Putnam, openly hostile towards the Birt-Bland regime, will shortly be confirmed as deputy chairman of the BBC, playing a key role in selecting Birt's replacement. It is widely rumoured that Birt asked for an extension beyond March 2001 but was turned down. He is telling spin-



doctors to underline the message that he is staying on right to the bitter end. THE BBC's case surely can't be helped by the dire new series, *The Human Body*. This week's episode featuring narrator Lord Winston in a storm-lashed boat, empathising with an unborn fetus, was atrocious - and made me feel queasy. It descended into bathos, when after filming the birth of a baby girl in Britain, it ran a series of round-the-world shots of mothers and babies, born at the same time: an adaptation of that horry local newspaper technique, finding the first baby born as the new year dawns. I suspect that the BBC included this sequence to raise international sales. THE broadcaster and writer Trevor Phillips is certainly enjoying a PR blitz. The producer of *The Windrush* can do no wrong. He is being touted as potential mayor of London and favourably interviewed

wherever he ventures. Next Monday he becomes the first black TV personality to give the annual Royal Television Society Fleming Lecture. His message will be suitably sane: that British television has made huge strides in including all sections of society, though the future with endless digital channels is not so assured. "Jumble sale television endlessly recycling old stuff" will form his warning. But nothing to prick the Phillips bubble in that. But even as Phillips lectures on Monday, TV will be demonstrating that it doesn't

need the excuse of digital to go rummaging. Do you remember *Hollywood Women*, the Carlton series that launched a new genre in shock docs? "A couple of weeks ago I didn't have a neck. The fact that these days I have is just making me feel so happy," says Roseanne, in next week's compilation - *The Best of Hollywood Women*. The odd thing is that, five years on, the series dubbed as rubbish is now seen as "groundbreaking" in its use of fast-cutting techniques replacing commentary. Its makers, September Films, are currently putting together yet another version, *The Truth About Footballers*, taking viewers into the personal lives of former soccer stars. It is designed to interest women; they all live in such awful houses - but without mortgages. It is so unfair," means an executive involved.

Media minnow nets on-screen sales deal

An electronic system to sell radio advertising aims to offer more efficient trading, **Raymond Snoddy** reports

MediaTel, a small, specialist information provider to the British media industry, has beaten off nine big rivals such as Reuters and leading advertising agencies to win a contract to create a national electronic system to sell radio advertising. The brief is to create an electronic trading system between buyers and sellers of radio airtime. It will allow media planners to brief salesmen electronically, complete the deal on screen, and provide confirmation that advertisers have got the advertising slots they have paid for. "Radio has often been criticised for taking 15 per cent of a media buyer's time for 5 per cent of their budget," says Justin Sampson of the Radio Advertising Bureau (RAB), the body set up to promote the commercial radio industry. The new system, named Jicrit, will, Sampson hopes, remove that disparity between time and expenditure. On Wednesday he went to MediaTel's offices in Soho with the largest cheque the RAB had ever written. He says MediaTel won the contract because the company showed a clear understanding

of the advertising industry and the likely difficulties that might arise, together with a clear vision on how the system could continue to be enhanced and developed. The new Internet-based system should be up and running by the end of this year or early next and the RAB hopes that it will give an additional boost to radio advertising, which totalled £365 million in the year to the end of March - an increase of £46 million over the previous 12-month period. The deal will also be a boost for MediaTel, a small, independent company with turnover of more than £1 million a year which provides a range of media information to most of the big players in Britain. MediaTel is run by Derek Jones, whose late father Bob, a former media director of BHP, founded the company. It has used the Internet to offer vast quantities of media information to its 112 subscribers. Jones hopes that if the creation of Jicrit goes according to plan, MediaTel will run the system for the radio industry on a continuing basis. Apart from providing eight years of media stories searchable by keyword, MediaTel has a press database covering

4,400 titles and provides five to ten trends on everything from readership to circulation. Users can also do a lot of their own calculations. If an advertiser wants a profile of all the media available within 15 minutes' drive from Cambridge, for example, the system provides it. "We are adding demographic data and retail locations shortly," Jones says. The television database provides everything from the latest viewing trends and advertising revenues by station plus overnight ratings for key events and programmes. One of the company's databases - Media Village - is largely open to non-subscribers and provides a media net community bringing together sites from organisations such as the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, the National Readership Survey and market research organisations such as AGB. As well as implementing Jicrit, Jones is considering adding moving pictures to his service. It would be useful, he thinks, for advertisers to be able to log on to promotional clips of television programmes where they are about to place their advertising.



... in *The Human Body*



Steamed up over greens

Vegetables are sexy and we are going to prove it, says the Vegetarian Society. Virginia Matthews reports

Vegetarian food is to be given a sexy new image in the first cinema ad for the Vegetarian Society, to be released nationwide next week.

The ad highlights what the society calls the sensual side of food — preparation and eating in a steamy kitchen — and tackles head-on the sometimes staid image of vegetarianism with homoerotic, and heavily symbolic, scenes of kneading, rolling and tasting.

The close-ups of asparagus tips, figs, carrots and chillies, interspersed with just the eyes, lips and hands of those preparing them, are designed to inject colour and glamour into what many see as the drabness of the meat-free diet. They are also to remind meat-eaters that practically all the food credited with aphrodisiac qualities — including celery, carrots, fennel and ginger — is vegetarian.

The society calls the commercial, aimed predominantly at a youth audience, the first step towards genuine food consciousness. While the suggestive theme will be compared inevitably to the direction taken by Häagen-Dazs, the company that injected adult sexuality into the aseptic world of ice-cream, Chris Dessent, a Vegetarian Society spokesman, emphasises that it is more tongue-in-cheek. "We do have a serious



Many manufacturers believe that vegetarianism poses the food industry's biggest challenge

would top £250,000, many of the marketing and media advisers involved are working either free or at reduced rates. The society's income comes from fundraising and sponsorship deals, including a tie-up with HarperCollins, which is publishing a new vegetarian recipe book. The V licensing symbol, which now appears on hundreds of products from margarine and vegetarian haggis to savoury rice, dogfood and a gelatine-free digital camera, also brings in cash. With more than 5,000 people becoming vegetarian each week

— the overall figure is 3.5 million, according to Gallup — and many more cutting down their meat consumption, the business opportunities are legion. All the leading supermarkets stock vegetarian versions of their top-selling ready meals, while manufacturers such as Birds Eye Walls believe that vegetarianism poses the food industry's biggest challenge. The market research house Mintel claims that the vegetarian business is the industry's fastest-growing sector. While the vegetarian movement has been accused of using

Fear and loathing of things foreign

There has been more than a touch of xenophobia hanging in the air these past few days. It started with the *Panorama* programme on the plight of the two nurses recently released by Saudi Arabia, which turned out to be a rather strange edition. At its heart there was an undoubted scoop — the first interview with Deborah Parry, broadcast even before her appearance in the pages of her paymaster, *The Express*. The fact that the programme appeared to give an uncritical view of proceedings from the point of view of Parry and her erstwhile colleague, Lucille McLaughlan, has already been commented on. Indeed, it is a universal danger of scoops and chequebook



Raymond Snoddy

media outlets managed to reflect that there might be another point of view, and that some of those very veterans believe it time to move on. Hatred, intransigence and confrontation will always make better copy, particularly when incomprehensible foreigners, who have never said "sorry" in an acceptable form, are concerned. And another outbreak of xenophobia could be imminent, this time over the Mirror Group, the parent of *The Mirror*. It has had a preliminary approach from the Axel Springer group, the largest publisher in Germany — although it is dwarfed by Bertelsmann, the multinational German media enterprise. The official position is that the Hamburg-based group has expressed an interest in the Mirror Group but is not yet in a position to say whether it will follow up with a bid. Springer, which wants to break out of its German-speaking fastnesses, is, however, keen. But can the paper of Andy Capp, which gave Churchill a platform in the wilderness years, countenance a takeover over by Germans? Newspapers are more culturally sensitive products than cars, and quite a slice of the UK's national newspaper industry is already foreign-owned. The Telegraph Group is controlled by a Canadian company, the two *Independent* titles by an Irish group and *The Times* and its sister papers are ultimately controlled by The News Corporation, an Australian company. Even that quintessential Englishman Viscount Rothermere, the chairman of the Daily Mail and General Trust, spends much of the year outside the UK, probably for tax reasons.

But the real test of the current state of xenophobia in the media is whether a perfectly respectable German newspaper publisher can bid for a British newspaper group that may be too small to prosper in the modern multimedia world of cut-throat competition without a rash of anti-German jokes at the very least. Any bid by Springer really ought to be judged on its financial merits.

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THE TIMES

Rob

For the first time... MoD has let career record military changes. Charles Miller filmed...

L... the first time... the MoD has let career record military changes. Charles Miller filmed...

Nicole

The bride's dress... Deborah Milner, her partner by Nicky Clarke, the Editor of *Tatler*, Jane Proctor, has pledged to cover the wedding and Richard Rogers, the celebrity photographer, says he is desperate to take the photographs. But Tara Palmer-Tomkinson has warned the bride against...

All those mentioned above have been roped in by Renault's PR company, Peter Davies, to pull (in prior) and on air the latest ad in the hugely successful *Papa and Nicole* series for the *Chloé*.

It breaks tonight, and the script has Nicole marrying a mysterious Brit. Renault has guarded the ad as if it were the Crown Jewels. It would be difficult to give away the secret to find out who found it at 7:40 tonight, during Coronation Street.

Millions will. The *Chloé* is one of the most successful advertising campaigns ever. It consistently scores the highest recall figures in the car, or almost any other sector, with astonishing 93 per cent prompted recall.

The campaign has kept the *Chloé* in the UK's top ten since it launched in 1991. Sales have risen each consecutive year, sold £803, putting it in tenth place. It has dwarfed the success story that was the car that asked Publicis, the agency behind the campaign, to account for its success and no one is really able. Publicis

كندا من الاصل

Robertson - the movie

For the first time, the MoD has let cameras record military changes. Charles Miller filmed them

Labour's Strategic Defence Review - reorganising the Armed Forces for the next century - will be published as soon as it has been agreed by the Cabinet, probably before Parliament's summer recess. And for the first time, the ministry allowed cameras to record a military reorganisation. The BBC was given access to many meetings at which the size and shape of the Forces were argued through by ministers, civil servants and military chiefs.

The resulting film, *A Paper War*, of which I was the producer, will be shown on Sunday: a bonus for us was the agreement reached with the MoD that we could transmit the programme ahead of publication of the review. The programme can't claim an exclusive, since the Cabinet could overturn the MoD's recommendations. But we have made a series of educated guesses about the results, which will inevitably be a mixed bag. Pluses are likely to include improved deployability for the forces, with a new Joint Repatriation Force, the formation of an air cavalry brigade and measures to improve working life for service personnel. Minuses would be cuts in the number of reserves, in the Navy's frigate fleet and the number of tanks in active use.

Media access of this kind is, by its nature, a symbiotic relationship: the programme-maker gets a programme, and the people being filmed get to be seen on television - for whatever reason they desire. The deal was to allow the programme-maker enough freedom to have a reasonable chance of filming something interesting, and those being filmed enough control to make them confident that at least part of what is shown is what they want to be seen.

In our case, it was a simple enough deal: we ask permission to come in on every occasion; if permission is granted, we are accompanied by a press officer at all times. The finished programme is seen by the MoD before transmission. It can censor any part of it on security grounds, and is allowed to advise on matters of factual accuracy. But beyond that, it recognises the BBC's right to editorial control.

On the whole, the arrangements worked smoothly. Only occasionally were we reminded of our unusual situation, filming events that normally would be considered off-limits for outsiders, let alone those with cameras and microphones.

We were filming a rather grand MoD event, the Defence Council, at which all three Service chiefs and the top officials of the MoD were meeting the Defence Ministers to discuss the structure of the Forces. While someone else was speaking, Lord Gilbert, the Minister for Defence Procurement, who never looked especially pleased to see us, started whispering to George Robertson, the Secretary of State, while looking anxiously at me. Robertson, who was chairing the meeting, interrupted the business to allow Gilbert to speak: "I'm sorry," Gilbert said, "but I wanted to check what you were filming, because the camera wasn't on the person who was speaking. You weren't filming secret documents, were you?"

I explained that I was shooting "cut-aways" - shots of other people listening, which would allow us to edit the sequence together. He appeared to think this was a



George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence who chaired Labour's Strategic Defence Review, outside the MoD

particularly implausible excuse, but Robertson accepted it and said they should resume the meeting. The more media-friendly Minister for the Armed Forces, Dr John Reid, muttered mischievously: "Carry on filming, Vladimir."

During our year in the MoD, in which we filmed 38 meetings, most of our subjects, thankfully, did not pay us much attention. There are just two of us, Sarah Harrison, the assistant producer and sound recordist, and myself, as producer and camera operator. The camera is small enough not to be taken too seriously, and can record for up to three hours without needing a change of tape.

I would not claim that we have filmed everything interesting that has happened on the Defence Review. Indeed, we were often acutely aware that there was much horse-trading going on between meetings. One meeting, on the future of aircraft carriers, was postponed nine times before we were able to film it. Many of those changes were at such short notice that we were summoned to the MoD, only to hear our press officer discover that the meeting had once again been rescheduled.

Many of those meetings were utterly real but also mind-numbingly boring. The boring meetings, of course, didn't

make it into the final programme. Even the most high-minded programme-maker (such as myself) is biased towards incident, emotion, and conflict. In the event, there were some instances of the individual Services fighting their corner vigorously: that meeting about aircraft carriers was a case in point. But, to everyone's credit (and perhaps a degree of muted disappointment on my part), the review has been carried out in a rather more sophisticated atmosphere, above the inter-Service bickering that characterised similar exercises in previous decades.

Nevertheless, there has been conflict, and I make no apology for highlighting it. The MoD is a culture, indeed a whole world, of its own. Most of what was discussed at the meetings we filmed would be meaningless to outsiders. Often we weren't briefed on the subjects, and after a couple of hours, Sarah and I would come out of a meeting with quite different ideas about what we had filmed.

The MoD treated us fairly throughout our relationship even when we asked to transmit ahead of publication of the review (which was not the original agreement). One consequence of our request was that we had to hold a viewing for all its main participants - rather a horrifying prospect. In fact, the occasion,

with the Secretary of State flanked by the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Permanent Under-Secretary and other MoD figures, was more like watching a home video than the tense inquisition I had been expecting. Once again, John Reid came to our rescue in setting the tone as he sauntered into the room: "Right, take your seats. It's Robertson - the Movie."

• *A Paper War* will be shown on BBC2 on Sunday at 8pm.

Sly fox impaled on a prickly hedgehog

The Culture Committee's report on the regulation of broadcasting has failed to understand the television revolution, says Peter Ibbotson

Isaiah Berlin famously divided us into the foxes - who know many small things - and the hedgehogs - who know one big thing. To judge from its report on *The Multi-Media Revolution*, there can be no doubt that Gerald Kaufman's House of Commons Culture Committee is a fully paid-up hedgehog.

The report starts with the big idea that the technological convergence of broadcasting, telecommunications and computing is an accelerating and unstoppable global phenomenon. It finishes with the big conclusion that the "alphabet soup" of regulatory bodies covering these activities - the ITC, Ofcom, BSC, OFT, even the BBC - should be merged into a single Communications Regulation Commission with powers over all aspects of broadcasting and communications, from technology to ownership to content.

Unfortunately, big ideas of this kind run the risk of confusing what is technologically possible with what, more soberly, is likely to develop in the altogether more complex world of investment decisions and consumer preferences. "Mrs 1970 will have a robot to do the housework," promised the feature writers of 1955. No, she didn't, but eventually the robots built her a cheaper and better car. It is equally fanciful to accept that "convergence is just around the corner" and that a whole new world of desktop broadcasting is imminent, with the Internet offering "a new mode of entertainment". Barbara Roche warned the committee that "convergence is more a technical than a market phenomenon". BSkyB and BREMA, which both have a commercial interest in the outcome, advised that computing and viewing are likely to remain distinct activities. Under-terred, the committee went to the West Coast of America, where the high priests of computing proved, unsurprisingly, to be "much more forward-looking".

None of this would matter much if it did not obscure the real and immediate challenge facing broadcasting. The imminent pressure is coming from the rapid multiplication of broadcast channels enabled by digital technology, all vying for the attention of the same, fixed (or perhaps diminishing) amount of viewing time, and constrained by the public's untested willingness to pay the real price for greater choice.

If the fragmentation of audiences runs faster than the generation of new revenues, then broadcasters overall will have

less to spend per programme and per channel. Worse, money will be diverted from the creative processes. In this highly competitive environment, commercial prudence seeks known income drivers (no surprise that new subscription film channels are so frequently mooted), a tight control of budgets and an aversion to risk-taking.

Even if the promised convergence revolution did create a limitless choice, it is not, like the competitive pressures building up inside traditional broadcasting, lurking just around the corner. Nor is it likely to produce the concentration of revenues which sustain high broadcasting standards. The fantasy world in which we each select our evening entertainment from hundreds of thousands of high-quality programmes available on the Internet, or wherever, begs the question of how they are to be paid for.

Twenty years from now, these questions may all be answered. But rushing to create new structures such as the committee's single overall regulator puts tomorrow's technological cart ahead of today's consumer horse. Damian Green, MP, noted in his dissenting opinion: "To have one body attempting to regulate how much opera there is on Channel 4, and how much BT should charge Internet providers for connecting to the local loop, is absurd. In this instance, tidiness is the enemy of common sense."

We should have separate content and commercial regulation. The Kaufman committee's report has many sensible things to say about education and the Internet; it has a keen awareness of the value of British production and film-making skills; and it has an ambition to promote investment and employment in the media.

In the past 50 years, regulation has largely proceeded according to the fox's view of the world: evolutionary rather than revolutionary, pragmatically dealing with detail and consequence rather than taking sweeping intellectual overviews. The future lies in sustaining the ability to fund and create new and original programming for the broad market, not in the explosion of accessible Websites, or simply filling the new hours of broadcasting with an interminable recycling of yesterday's product. This task is one for the regulatory foxes, not for Mr Kaufman's hedgehog.

In this instance, tidiness is common sense's enemy

Nicole's fantasy wedding

THE bride's dress is by Deborah Milner, her hair is by Nicky Clarke. The Editor of *Tatler*, Jane Procter, has pledged to cover the wedding, and Richard Young, the celebrity photographer, says he's desperate to take the photographs. But Tara Palmer-Tomkinson has warned the bride against marriage.

All those mentioned above have been roped in by Renault's PR company, Beer Davies, to puff (in print and on air) the latest ad in the hugely successful *Papa* and *Nicole* series for the Clio.

It breaks tonight, and the script has Nicole marrying a mystery Brit. Renault has guarded the ad as if it were the Crown Jewels. It would be charitable to give away the secret. To find out who, tune in at 7:40 tonight during *Coronation Street*.

Millions will. The Clio is one of the most successful car campaigns ever. It consistently scores the highest prompted and unprompted recall figures in the car, or almost any other sector, with figures that have touched an astonishing 93 per cent prompted recall.

The campaign has kept the Clio in the UK top ten since it launched in 1991. Sales have risen each consecutive year. Last year the old-style Clio sold 58,033, putting it in tenth place. It has dwarfed the success story that was the car it succeeded, the Renault 5.

But ask Publicis, the agency behind the campaign, to account for its success and no one is really able. Publicis



Stefano Hatfield

and his client have reams of research, but it seems the real secret lies in a fortuitous combination of factors.

Above all, there's the casting. Estelle Skornik, the actress who plays Nicole, is impossible to dislike. Young men fancy her, older men want to father her - women love her, too. She's the classic French free spirit, far more appealing than, for example, the women in the Peugeot 306 series, Max Douchin, as *Papa*, is firmly in the tradition of the dishy, sexually experienced French rogue.

As they've capered

through the past seven ads, he has matched his daughter liaison for liaison. The third star is the scenery, particularly Provence. The scenes set around the family's chalet represent a lifestyle to which millions of us appear to aspire.

The campaign has been admirably consistent throughout. It has adapted Robert Palmer's *Johnny and Mary* on the soundtrack - except for the 1996 switch to Soul II Soul's *Keep on Moving* when an improved Clio was last launched.

Apart from the 1995 ad

featuring Maman, there has only ever been a two-word script, "Papa" and "Nicole", accompanied by a beguiling variety of Gallic looks.

Nevertheless, "Papa and Nicole" is not a soap series in the manner of *Gold Blend*, and it's not sexy in the way Peugeot is. It has also not become famous through controversy. Instead, it is refreshingly un-macho for car advertising and has created a new television heroine.

So, when you tune in tonight, enjoy the wedding. But remember - it's only an ad!

FORGET David Ginola in his L'Oréal haircare commercial, or David Beckham for Adidas. If you really want to see a top footballer's body, check out the new Walkers ad starring the Brazilian, Romario.

All Gary Lineker would do for a pack of Walkers was scrap with Gazza, turn down Ulfrika Jonsson and be mean to little children.

Romario goes the Full Monty. Giving a remarkably natural performance, he tries unsuccessfully to bribe a small boy into giving him his crisps. He gets his way only by swapping his entire Brazil kit for a packet.

A naked Romario scores on the pitch and runs to the crowd to celebrate, revealing the periest set of buttocks ever seen in a British ad. The only question is, are they his or did he get a body double to stand in?

• Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.



Two-word script: Nicole and Papa's new ad-break tonight

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THE TIMES FRIDAY... We h... Anita Pincas... the high-tech alternative to education... action zones... The Government... to understand the... virtual classroom... can work as well as... some ways better... real thing. Although... pledged to... school to the... Government... think of it in limited... little more than... information... The enormous... education from... ogy are in... because it... action between... teachers in... potential is not... understood... Experiment... mail and... operation in... around Britain for... The message... technology is... and now cheap... widely used... have filtered... in control of... I have 25... not yet met... comes later... who are study... very personal... fruitful way... end of last... wrote: "I think... moment to tell... I have enjoyed... how good it... Day in t... When Hugh... 52-year-old... morning roll... name, the teacher... "Present". None... thought this... For Mr Carson... appointed head... was starting a... owing "a school... from breakfast... visiting his... lunch with... Mr Carson began... practice to "get... what it is like... receiving end... says: "I learn... things that... For example, this... pected it out... my study in... is 437 yards... "This means if... to come to see... is almost half... good for me... he has to do... technology de... by all his o... probably covered... altogether... The boy picked... was a 14-year... pil in the Rem... the housema... someone who... chose very well... realise that... your headma... shoulder all... never forget... The day began... the only school... Edward Elgar... there. When I... were a couple...

سكزا من الاصل

EDUCATION

We have the technology

Anita Pincas on the high-tech alternative to education action zones

The Government's education action zones are to be test-beds for innovation. Radical ideas to raise standards of teaching and learning are to be put into place. Local businesses are to play a key role — which ministers hope will mean meeting the cost of the experiment.

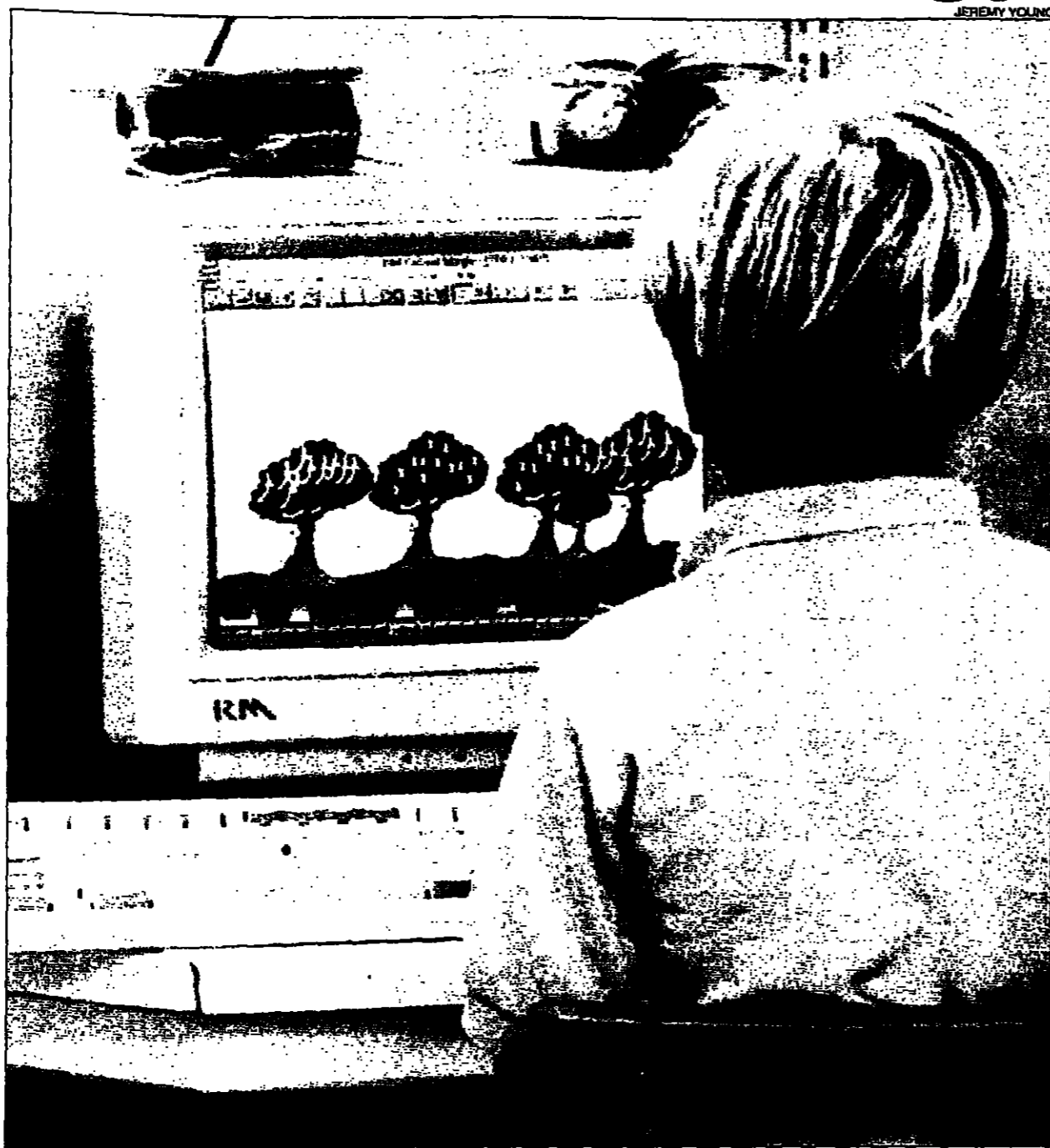
The first zones will be announced later this month. Prominent among the radical proposals that have brought success to the dozen pioneers will be the seductively simple idea of more work, longer school days and shorter holidays. It is almost as if David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, believes that the answer for those pupils who are already switched off school is to give them more of the same. Although ministers have yet to realise it, the Government's technology programme for schools offers a more radical, far-sighted and effective way forward. Local businesses are already involved in imaginative partnerships in many areas, bringing information and communication technology into the classroom, with encouraging results.

The Government has failed to understand the potential of the virtual classroom, which can work as well as — and in some ways better than — the real thing. Although it has pledged to connect every school to the Internet, the Government continues to think of it in limited terms, as little more than a source of information.

The enormous benefits for education from such technology are in e-mail — primarily because it promotes interaction between students and teachers in useful ways. But its potential is not yet fully understood.

Experiments with e-mail and video links have been in operation in spots around Britain for years now. The message — that such technology is viable, useful and now cheap enough to be widely used — appears not to have filtered through to those in control of education.

I have 25 students who have not yet met each other — that comes later in the course — but who are studying together in a very personal, enjoyable and fruitful way by e-mail. At the end of last term one of them wrote: "I think this is the right moment to tell you how much I have enjoyed the course, and how good it has been to know



The Government's technology programme for schools offers a more radical, far-sighted and effective way forward

that you and the rest of the group were at the other end of the line all the time.

How is it possible to run a class by e-mail? You have to ask yourself what makes a class. Traditionally, we think of the four walls of a room inside a building. Children accept such classes as part of their cultural expectation. They know what schools are for, and there is a ready-made framework for lessons to take place in.

You can achieve a similar framework using e-mail. But you must first focus on what truly makes a classroom — and it is not the four walls. It is really that a group of learners collaborate with each other and are supported by a teacher. It is quite possible to achieve this using group e-mail, by ensuring that everyone receives a copy of everyone else's messages.

The main principles for successful group e-mail are simple. It should be set up as

the e-mail equivalent of an ordinary workshop, with small tasks for everyone to do and discuss in groups. As in a traditional workshop, the learners have to know enough about each other to feel comfortable working together. Groups of 12 are about right, but the pattern can work with fewer. A class of 24 could be divided into eights or sixes, all doing the same things. They should see clearly in advance just what they are going to do. The teacher ought to keep quiet for a reasonable period, then pull the discussion together.

If the pupils know that it is meant to be a workshop, not a test, and if they have the early help they need to get going, then it is likely that they will plunge in with enthusiasm. Permission to have personal chats by e-mail as well as doing the work will help to create good groups.

Certain aspects do take some getting used to. For

example, the way an e-mail message simply disappears into the ether, or the experience of "talking" without being in direct contact with your audience — and possibly without even knowing who is "listening".

The evidence is that e-mail can encourage pupils to work together more effectively than they do in an ordinary classroom. By e-mail nobody can dominate, so everyone gets a chance. They can do the work in their own way in their own time, without the pressure of the surrounding classroom. They have a written record of all work, so it is easy to refer back to later.

The virtual classroom will, of course, need e-mail for everyone. But, that is already one of the Government's goals. It would make enormous sense to combine the benefits that group work is known to bring to learning with the new technologies, to inject fresh life into our overcrowded class-

rooms. By contrast, turning back the clock by expanding rigid four-walls teaching — especially for older children — is unlikely to be a recipe for success.

The author teaches by e-mail at the Institute of Education, University of London, where she is developing the Future Learning Centre (a.pincas@ioe.ac.uk)

Steve Parish on the problems of limiting class numbers

Forget size — give us more assistants

It is only a matter of time before one of Labour's election pledges runs into serious trouble. The idea of reducing infant classes to a maximum of 30 will be unworkable without either a huge injection of resources or the introduction of the fiercest policy of social planning since the bussing of children to enforce integration in America.

Take, for example, a one-form entry primary school with, at present, an average of 32 children in the infant classes. There are no spare classrooms and, if there were, nobody is promising that each year could split into two classes of 16, each with its own teacher.

The only options would be to create four mixed-age classes and open a mobile classroom (at a capital cost of, say, £25,000), or build a new classroom (costing three times that). This would immediately create 30 new places, but 24 would be "spare" places, which the Government wants to reduce.

Of course, two pupils each year could be turned away to the nearest school with spare places. But which two? Not the ones living farthest away, but the ones who moved into the area after the application date, or those who never applied. A Court of Appeal judgment means councils cannot reserve places for children in their nearest school.

Since parental choice replaced planning for places, it is a common problem for a family to move to an area and find that the nearest school with vacancies is many miles away. It is often difficult

enough for secondary pupils, but who really wants four-year-olds bussed ten miles to find a school with a vacancy? Labour has hinted that small rural schools, very expensive on a per pupil basis, may be protected to avoid just that.

Where several schools in an area all have a couple of "extra" children and there are no nearby spare places, the likely way to deal with the problem will be for just one school to have the extra classroom. The education authority will decide which school, and this will probably be the biggest, where the impact of mixed-age teaching can be minimised.

But our one-form entry school will have lost six pupils — and £7,000 off its budget with no reduction in expenditure. Will the authority have funds to cushion that deficit, as well as pay for the capital costs of building new classrooms at the larger schools?

It is hard to criticise Labour's good intentions. In America, President Clinton proposes infant class sizes of 18, but there will be no plaudits if a well-intentioned long-term aim is achieved quickly by an increase in mixed-age classes, or by young children spending

hours a week travelling, or by most schools having fewer pupils and facing effective budget cuts in a formula determined by pupil numbers. Yes, there can be 30 in a class, but the full-time reception class assistant might have to be made part-time to do it.

Is there a way out? As the chairman of a school governing body, I would have no qualms about going to parents who expect a class size of 30 to tell them that to achieve it we would be financially and educationally damaging the whole school. Instead, the Government could relax its pledge to say that extra funding is being made available (assuming it is, since the pilot budgets do not give much assurance) to achieve infant classes of no more than 30, but that exceptions would be allowed.

This would mean that, where a school and the local education authority can show good cause, money that would otherwise have to go into building extra classrooms could be used instead to employ more classroom assistants. In our school, that could mean an assistant in all three years, not just in the reception class.

This is a pledge too far. The Government should admit it now and do the sensible thing — funding and training classroom assistants rather than rushing through disruptive changes simply in order not to be seen to fail in one of its key manifesto pledges.

The author chairs the governing body of a Church of England primary school.

THANKS TO SOMETHING CALLED A DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERN I COULDN'T SEE THE BLACKBOARD TODAY...



Day in the life of a head boy

When Hugh Carson, a 52-year-old headmaster, attended a morning roll call at his school recently, the teacher read out his name and he replied "Present". None of the pupils thought this strange.

For Mr Carson, the newly appointed head of Malvern, was starting a day of "shadowing" a schoolboy, following him from breakfast to supper, from classroom to sports field, visiting his study and eating lunch with him.

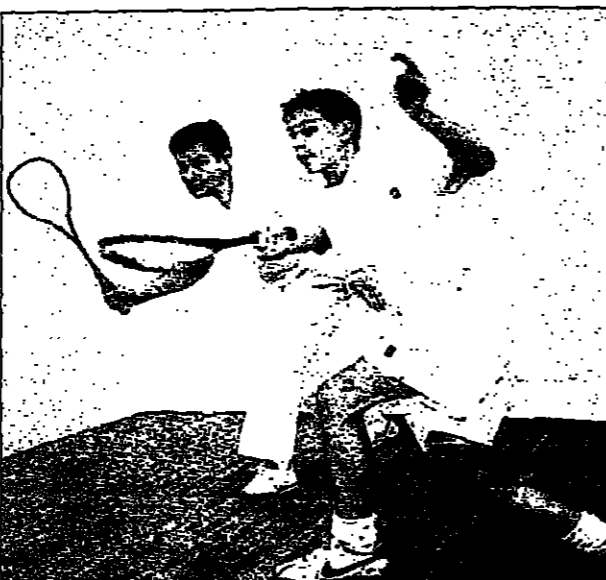
Mr Carson began this novel practice to "get some idea of what it is like to be on the receiving end, as it were," he says. "I learnt all sorts of little things that were very helpful. For example, this morning I paced it out, as I walked from my study to the boys' house. It is 437 yards.

"This means if I ask a pupil to come to see me, the round trip is almost half a mile. It's good for me to realise this. If he has to do something in the technology department, by the time he has walked round all his other lessons he has probably covered a mile altogether."

The boy picked to be shadowed was a 14-year-old called Alex Templeton-Ward, a pupil in the Remove. "I asked the housemaster to select someone who could cope and who wouldn't be too fazed. He chose very well. It is artificial. I realise that. If you've got your headmaster on your shoulder all the time, you can never forget it."

The day began at house No 7, the only school house outside Malvern's campus. Edward Elgar once lived there

Shadowing a student taught Hugh Carson a lot. Bruce Kemble reports



Masterclass: Hugh Carson and Alex Templeton-Ward

to greet me." Mr Carson says. "They joked a bit about me being a new boy coming into the house."

"I was a little thrown by one incident. There was another boy who was late back from the holidays. They sort of ambushed him as he arrived, at the same time I did. I thought, 'Am I being ambushed?' It was lively but not boisterous. It never crossed my mind to intervene."

"Then we had registration and when the housemaster got to the Remove year, my name was read out. There wasn't a flicker. I had to answer. I thought, 'This is

spirit very well'. There is no threat to anyone. The whole thing is meant to be me looking at the school, seeing what we are doing and whether we can do things a bit better."

Templeton-Ward's first academic lesson was English literature. The master asked the class to examine how Tennyson celebrated strength of character and human bravery in three poems: *Ulysses*, *The Charge of the Light Brigade* and *The Revenge*. Mr Carson sat next to Templeton-Ward in this lesson.

"The English master treated me as if I were invisible and did not ask me any

questions, although I wouldn't have minded if he had," Mr Carson says. "Afterwards I gave Alex £2 to buy his friends some Mars bars in the tuck shop [known as The Grub]. I felt sorry for him, having me round him all day."

Mr Carson admits that he had "cheated" a bit by nipping back to his study to sign some papers before driving his car to rejoin Templeton-Ward for a technology lesson. Then it was lunchtime and again they sat together. "There was a senior boy at the top of the table, making sure we all behaved," Mr Carson says. They chatted about football. Mr Carson had a mixed grill, followed by a chocolate pudding with custard. "It was wicked stuff," he says. "All the sort of things I'm not allowed at home."

Alex Templeton-Ward, whose elder brother also goes to Malvern, says: "I thought it might be quite challenging to keep up a conversation throughout the day. I also thought it might be quite a good opportunity to get to know my headmaster. I was always conscious of the head being by my side. In technology he helped me to choose a project because I didn't have any ideas whatsoever and then he helped my friends."

"Later we played squash and he beat me 10-8 but I think he was being quite chivalrous. I think shadowing is a good idea. It made him find out what it's like to be in our shoes. Perhaps since he was surprised at how far it was from his study to my house he might consider making the morning half-hour break longer."

SATURDAY. ANYTHING BUT A DAY OF REST.

SPORT Vision WEEKEND metro the times magazine meg@

Making waves across the world

Victoria Walker meets a fast girl who leaves rivals trailing in her wake

RIA PICKARD has undoubtedly earned her sobriquet, The Pocket Rocket. The power of the aquabike on which she has made such an instant impression...



PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER BYRNE

Pickard's love of aquabike racing has quickly propelled her among the elite of the sport

At just 5ft 5in and 7st, she has earned a reputation for having no fear as she powers through the surf at average speeds of between 50 and 60mph on a jet-propelled machine with no clutch, gear or brakes...

Two months ago she took on allcomers in a race of the world's top men at the Israeli resort of Eilat and beat them all. One of only two females in the race and the youngest competitor...

This weekend, she will be attempting to repeat her breathtaking performance in the first round of the Royal Yachting Association national championship at Milton Keynes.

test: "Yes, I even tuned her engine for her." A hands-on engineer, he employs complex computer technology...



The 15-year-old's power on the water belies her tender years

test the performance of the engines. They travel to all events as a family, with her mother, Jane, 36, and her sister, Holly, 12, acting as honorary pit crew.

With a daughter in the sport, he was quick to stress the safety features of aquabike racing and turned his machine upside down to demonstrate its flat bottom.

Her confidence seems unshakeable and was underlined in her first race of the British season; at Tattershall Country Park, in the first round of the British jet sports championship...

racer fall off his bike, the lanyard automatically cuts off the power, instantly shutting off the engine and stopping the bike. Jet sport competitions are comparable to motorcycle racing on water...

'After having seen the thrill of her father competing, she was hooked'

cardiovascular work-outs in the gym, as well as weekend practice sessions on her bike. Despite being around jet sport racers from the age of 4, the family went to all of Alan Pickard's races...

Even though she missed the first two rounds of adult racing last season (she only turned 14 and qualified as an adult midway through the year) she still managed to come second in the British pro-am ladies runabout class.

RACING Holland booked for Derby

BARRY HILLS, the Lambourn trainer, has booked Darryll Holland to ride The Glow-Worm in the Vodafone Derby at Epsom tomorrow week. It will be the first time that Holland has partnered the son of Doyoun in public.

Holland rode the 150-1 outsider, Blues Traveller, into third place for the Lambourn trainer behind Commander in Chief five years ago. With Sir Mark Prescott announcing that Pasternak, last season's Cambridgehire winner, will not run in the Royal Hunt Cup at Royal Ascot on June 17...

16-1 The Ed Dunlop-trained Bold Words was also in demand - his odds being reduced to 16-1 from 25-1. Central Park was yesterday announced as a surprise acceptor for Sunday's French Derby at Chantilly, and the Barking firm has introduced the Godolphin-owned colt into its betting at 25-1.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Brighton 2.10 (m 213yds) 1. Dillanville (R Hughes, 11-8 lbw) 2. Captain Miller (10-1) 3. Ebony (A-J) 6 m. 21. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

Uttoxeter 2.00 (m 213yds) 1. Sister Rose (D Galloway, 12-2) 2. Sizzling (55-1) 3. April Sparhawk (100-30) 4. Baron City (2-1) 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

Ripon 6.40 (m 110yds) 1. Conroy Lodge (E Carter, 11-4) 2. Pricely Dream (6-5) 3. Johnnie Lenny (11-2) 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

Wednesday's late details Newbury 8.00 (m 213yds) 1. Kammion (R Hills, 8-1) 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

Advertisement for Fenwick Bond Street. Features a large black and white portrait of a man's face. Text: 'save 20% on designer collections at Fenwick BOND STREET'. See The Times Magazine tomorrow. CHANGING TIMES

Advertisement for 'SHEEHAN on BRIDGE' by Robert Sheehan. Includes a list of card symbols (AK4, QJ3, 983, 10843, 75, 108, QJ10752, AQ5, AK4, AK6, J76, 10883, 97652, K92, QJ62, AK4, AK6, J76, AK4, QJ3, 983, 10843, 75, 108, QJ10752, AQ5, AK4, AK6, J76) and an introduction to bridge lessons.

Advertisement for 'KEENE on CHESS' by Raymond Keene. Includes a chess diagram titled 'Diagram of final position' with pieces on a board labeled a-h and 1-8. Text: 'Level pegging After three games of the qualifying match between Vladimir Kramnik and Alexei Shirov to determine the challenger to Garry Kasparov later this year, the score is equal. The players have been justifying carefully and probing for weaknesses in the theoretical lines they each favour.' Includes a list of chess puzzles and solutions.

Vertical strip of small advertisements on the right edge of the page. Includes: 'THE TIMES FRI...', 'Chris Mc...', 'Volun...', 'BATH...', 'THUNDER...', '6.25 BATTLETON...', '6.55 EBF SWANSWICK...', '7.25 FRIDAY EVENING HANDB...', '6.10 BRIT FRANK NOVICES...', '6.40 BRISBY HOMES (MIDLANDS)...', 'COURSE SPECIALISTS'.

FOOTBALL

Del Piero receives green light for Italy

By Matt Dickinson

DOUBTS over Alessandro del Piero's involvement in the World Cup finals this summer appeared to have been dispelled yesterday when the Italy forward passed a rigorous fitness test.

"The muscle feels much better than it did last week," he said at a press conference yesterday at the Italy training camp near Florence.

Gianfranco Zola, the Chelsea forward, has no chance of being called up as a late

dismissal of Mohammed Al-Daye, the goalkeeper, and Mohammed Al-Khlaifi. Both were sent off for fouls on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

The two goals for Solskjaer were enough to convince Egil Olsen, the Norway coach, to select the Manchester United striker in his 22-man squad — which was announced yesterday — despite what had been a fitful season for him at Old Trafford.



Owen is kicked out in a sickening collision with Benzakri, the Morocco goalkeeper, during the match in Casablanca

England playing risk game

Michael Owen's superb goal in Casablanca on Wednesday was undoubtedly the most valuable act of England's World Cup preparation.

"I've had a good year with Blackburn Rovers and have been playing consistently," Gallacher said yesterday. "The pressure doesn't bother me and I'm enjoying my football at the moment."

Owen, by his own admission, was knocked out 25 minutes earlier when the knee of the Morocco goalkeeper, Driss Benzakri, caught his jaw.

Owen quickly revived and

Rob Hughes on the danger that Michael Owen was left to endure

appeared clear-eyed to the England doctor, John Crane, and two physiotherapists. He didn't know what he was doing or what was happening.

Whether two minutes, 25 minutes or 90 minutes, it constituted an unacceptable risk. Concussion is insidious. No one can look inside the skull and see brain damage.

Owen later admitted: "I might have told them I was OK, but I didn't feel OK."

Rob Hughes on the danger that Michael Owen was left to endure

The last person to heed in the heat of the contest is a performer. Adrenaline overrules common sense. In Owen's eyes, the glory, and the chance to book his seat on the World Cup plane, was worth the risk.

We are, you see, a courageous nation. Bravery is perceived in the image of Paul Lince in Rome last October, battling on, his head swathed in bandages.

Curiously, Owen had his opportunity in Casablanca because Ian Wright, another forward whose swiftness is of

Rob Hughes on the danger that Michael Owen was left to endure

prime importance, was withdrawn the instant he felt a hamstring pull. With injuries below the waist, England is stepping into line with sensible foreign precaution: above the neckline, we live dangerously in the past.

In 1974, Fifa, the world governing body, heeded the warnings and issued advice from its medical committee that even mildly concussed players should be substituted.

With a career potentially as worthy as Michael Owen's, that knock-on risk is surely round the corner.

Shearer is not for sale, say Newcastle

By David Maddock

NEWCASTLE United yesterday dismissed what they described as "wild speculation" over the future of Alan Shearer.

However, Freddie Fletcher, the Newcastle chief executive, said last night: "Let me stress once and for all that Alan Shearer is not leaving this club."

Shearer, according to unnamed sources from Italy, is the subject of a £22 million bid from Juventus, who are, reportedly, rivaling Barcelona for the player's signature.

Juventus, in fact, are unlikely to pay such a sum for any player, never mind an Englishman who is regarded with indifference by many Italians.

The Italian champions have a record of selling expensively, and buying cheaper. They sold Christian Vieri to Atletico Madrid, for £13.5 million, and replaced him with Filippo Inzaghi for £7 million.

Leeds United will open talks today with Alan Thompson, the Bolton Wanderers midfielder player.

Thompson can activate a clause in his contract to leave Arsenal Wenger, the Arsenal manager, was also in dismissive mood yesterday, laughing off suggestions that he is trying to sign Roberto Baggio, the Italy forward, for £6 million.

Real Madrid have sacked Jupp Heynckes eight days after he coached them to their European Cup final triumph over Juventus.

Heynckes replaced Fabio Capello last summer even though the Italian had steered Real to the league title

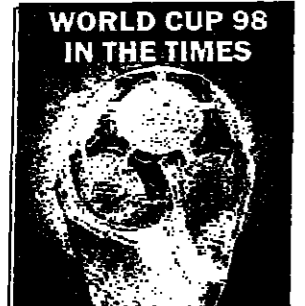
Oriel hold off strong Pembroke challenge

Oriel were close to losing the headship of the men's first division on the second day of the Oxford University Summer Eight's on the Isis yesterday.

Pembroke, who caught Magdalen on Wednesday to move up to second place, closed to within half a length of the leaders at the University Boatouse and Oriel only escaped by steering wide in the final stages of the race.

In the women's top division, Oriel-Green had no such worries. They finished two and a half lengths clear of New College, and with St Catherine's a similar distance behind in third place, no changes are anticipated today.

St Catherine's emerged as one of the more successful colleges yesterday. Their three men's crews all made progress and in the women's third division, their second eight, which rowed over on Wednesday, bumped Lady Margaret Hall's second crew.



replacement, even if Del Piero's injury returns. Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach, is using Enrico Chiesa, who plays for Parma, as a shadow for Del Piero, Italy, who face Austria, Cameroon and Chile in group B, play their final World Cup warm-up match against Sweden in Stockholm on Tuesday, the day set by Fifa, the world governing body, for coaches to finalise their 22-man squads.

England fans baffled by their team's failure to break down Saudi Arabia at Wembley on Saturday in the drab 0-0 draw will have been further confused by the Arabs' next result — a 6-0 defeat in Norway. The loss in Molde will not have been welcomed north of Hadrian's Wall either, with Scotland facing the Norwegians in group A, although there was some consolation in the knowledge that Saudi Arabia finished the match with nine men after the

IG INDEX SPORT advertisement for the World Cup. Features a large '£1,000,000' graphic and text: 'WIN A MILLION ON THE WORLD CUP'. Includes details about the competition, odds, and contact information.

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

First Test match Sri Lanka v New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings B.A. Young c Kaluwitharana 30 M.J. Horne b Bandula 18

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Conference play-off final: Eastern Conference, Chicago Bulls 108 Indiana Pacers 87

CYCLING

GIRO D'ITALIA: Twelfth stage (200km, San Marino-Carp) L. Rous (Fr) 4hr 37min

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UTRECHT: World Cup: Men: Pool A: Canada 4:1, Germany 2:1, South Korea 1:0

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WEDNESDAY'S LATEST RESULTS KING HASSAN II INTERNATIONAL CUP

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Fantasy League advertisement. Includes text: 'Fantasy League', 'All information provided by Fantasy League Limited', and details about the game.

Large advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Features large text: 'E1 win WO'.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES WORLD CUP FANTASY LEAGUE

Enter now to win cash prizes worth £50,000

As the best players in the world gather in France for what promises to be one of the most exciting World Cup tournaments ever staged...

Assists points awarded to a team-mate making the last pass before a goal is scored. Only applicable to members of the scoring team...

HOW TO PLAY Select a team of 11 players from the list right. You can enter any time until noon on June 10...

Appearance points awarded to a defender or goalkeeper who is on the pitch for at least 45 minutes including extra time...



THE SCORING SYSTEM

PLAYERS WILL SCORE POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

- Goal - 3 points
Assists - 2 points
Defender/Goalkeeper Appearance - 1 point for a defender or goalkeeper playing 45 minutes or more of a match, including extra time

Extra Time & Penalty Shoot-Outs: extra time (golden goal) goal and assists are awarded as above...

0891 66 55 88 (+44 990 100 385 outside UK)
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fantasy league logo and contact information for Fantasy League Limited.

TALK RADIO WORLD CUP COMMENTATORS. A hugely successful player for Celtic and Manchester United... LOU MACARI

HOW TO ENTER. Select a team of 11 players from the footballers listed right. You can only choose one player from any national team...

TERMS AND CONDITIONS. 1. If you enter World Cup Fantasy League through The Times or The Sunday Times you are bound to play it within the terms and conditions of play as specified...

Table listing 1000 players with columns for name, country, and points. Includes players like Carlos Valderrama, Paolo Bonolis, and many others.

CRICKET

Positive Holloake sees Surrey home

By Simon Wilde

THE OVAL: Surrey beat Lancashire by five wickets

SURREY march on in the Benson and Hedges Cup. This was the holders' thirteenth straight win in the competition since losing to Kent in a group match 13 months ago...

more at ease in the less pressured environs of county cricket, there was an obvious reason for his assurance...

Holloake's reluctance to bowl in those three games was seen by many as a sign of crumbling confidence...

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP SEMI-FINAL DRAW Yorkshire v Essex Leicestershire v Surrey

incapacitated by an infected shin for which he is taking antibiotics.

"My leg would have had to be half hanging off for me not to lead England," he said yesterday.

Holloake's opposite number, Wasim Akram also played his part in yesterday's outcome, albeit unintentionally.

APART FROM PERHAPS FEELING



Adam Holloake, of Surrey, plays the ball to leg yesterday

— almost certainly prevented him bowling as generously as he can and caused him to serve up an uncharacteristic number of wides and no-balls.

Butcher was only three runs into his innings of 36 and had the fallen Surrey would have looked precarious at 116 for five...

They looked more at ease once Yates finished an excellent spell, then wicket after wicket and for Wasim's dropped catch would have had a third.

By bowling 16 wickets, to Essex's four, they conceded 12 runs, or to put it another way, they gave their opponents two additional overs.

MIDDLESEX had won eight successive one-day games before this Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final...

Essex were not flawless. Peters and Grayson graced difficult chances, and some of the ground fielding was moderate...

Essex were not flawless. Peters and Grayson graced difficult chances, and some of the ground fielding was moderate...

SCOREBOARD

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player and Score/Runs. Includes Lancashire and Surrey batting and bowling figures.



Holt, although taking careful aim, missed the stumps with this throw and Angus Fraser made his ground

Cowan strikes decisive blows

By Michael Henderson

LORDS: Essex beat Middlesex by eight runs

MIDDLESEX had won eight successive one-day games before this Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final...

Cowan returned from the Caribbean with a poor report, which cited lack of fitness for his lack of form.

Essex were not flawless. Peters and Grayson graced difficult chances, and some of the ground fielding was moderate...

West Indies, they had the matchwinner. He took the gold award for his five wickets, though Peters, whose unbeaten 58 the day before bolstered the innings, had as good a claim.

Cowan returned from the Caribbean with a poor report, which cited lack of fitness for his lack of form.

Cowan admitted afterwards that he had not been bowling well. On this ground, however, he suddenly finds his footmarks sprinkled with stardust.

Essex were not flawless. Peters and Grayson graced difficult chances, and some of the ground fielding was moderate...

SCOREBOARD

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player and Score/Runs. Includes Essex and Middlesex batting and bowling figures.

Struggling Leicestershire hope that reality bites

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

MAY is no time to be judging a championship season, but with Sussex and Derbyshire in the top three, Leicestershire two places off the bottom...

collecting points soon and will expect to win this game, given four dry days. Still without James Whitaker, their captain, they will be led by Chris Lewis...

It will be an important fixture for two individuals. Darren Maddy remains the favourite to partner Michael Atherton...

Rain and injuries can be blamed for Leicestershire's parlous early placing, but they need to start

the England side last week in more ways than one. He batted without distinction and picked up two injuries, a broken finger and a strained hamstring...

Whenever England are playing — which is every other week — they will be without anything from two to five senior players...

They must capitalise when everyone is available but today, when this is the case, they face a Kent side with similar ambitions...

recent setback, having been bundled out of the Benson and Hedges Cup on Wednesday.

Many people have dismissed the chances of Glamorgan, the champions, defending the title successfully, and they may be premature.

The match at Trent Bridge today provides another opportunity for both to impress and a first chance

in Nottinghamshire colours for one who has already attracted England A recognition, Chris Read.

Read now gets his chance after an injury to Wayne Noon.

TABLE with columns: P, W, L, D, B, R, F, Pts. Lists cricket team statistics.

Pole vault Britons double up

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

WHEN Asgha Hansen and Jonathan Edwards set British records for the triple jump at the Bupa indoor grand prix in February, it was a rare coincidence...

Buckfield's effort was all the more commendable for being achieved in difficult circumstances. Turning up at Heathrow for an early evening departure on Tuesday, he found his flight was overbooked.

As if having to overcome a night flight were not handicap enough, Buckfield was not allowed to take his poles. He borrowed one from a fellow competitor and, despite the unfamiliarity, soared to 5.80.

This confirms Buckfield's move into world class, after a big step in Athens last summer when he finished fifth with 5.70, the best performance by a British pole vaulter in the history of world championships.

Whitlock has now set 25 British records indoors and out. "I still get a buzz every time I set one," she said.

This year, for the first time, the women's pole vault is included in the Commonwealth Games and European championships. Whitlock looks a prime candidate for medals in both.

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HOCKEY

England raise their game

England 3 Malaysia 1 FROM SYDNEY FRANKIN IN UTRECHT

ENGLAND expelled a spirited challenge by Malaysia to record their second World Cup victory here yesterday.

Malaysia equalised from a short corner in the 24th minute when Nor Saiful squeezed a shot past Mason.

Nine minutes before the end Pearn scored through on his own to score the third goal and seal victory.

England will meet Canada, who defeated India 4-1 to take third place in pool A.

ARGENTINA face holders

ARGENTINA have fought back after going behind in all their matches on their way to qualifying for the World Cup semi-finals and they will need to display the same combative qualities when they play Australia, the world and Olympic champions, in Utrecht today (Cathy Harris writes).

In a repeat of the 1994 final, Australia, with eight gold medal-winners in their squad, are favourites to make it a hat-trick of final appearances

after cruising through the first stages.

When they met in a four nations event last month, Australia won on a golden goal after being held 2-2 at full time.

England and Scotland will meet in the ninth-tenth place play-off if they triumph against China and India respectively.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Selectors opt for shake-up

IN BOWLS: In one of the biggest reshuffles anyone can remember, England, who finished fourth in the home international series at Worthing last year, have called up four newcomers...

CYCLING: Laurent Roux, of France, won a rain-soaked twelfth stage from San Marino to Carpi yesterday and took over from Alex Zülle as the overall leader of the Giro d'Italia.

BASKETBALL: The Chicago Bulls demolished the Indiana Pacers 106-87 to take a 3-2 lead in the seven-game Eastern Conference championship and move one win away from the NBA finals.

ORIENTEERING: Johan Larsson, of Sweden, the title holder, won the second individual race in the World Cup series at Windermere yesterday.

Big gun name going to one. THE TIMES FRIDAY

AFTER SHOW. The Times Friday. A series of small text blocks containing brief news snippets.

MONACO GRAND. Formula One news and race details. Includes qualifying points and race results.

WILSON. Advertisement for Wilson products, possibly related to sports equipment.

MONACO GRAND. Formula One news and race details. Includes qualifying points and race results.

هكذا من الأصل

GOLF

Big guns put name games to one side

FROM MEL WEBB IN HAMBURG

AFTER the Lord Mayor's Show comes another Lord Mayor's Show. The infernally confusing Deutsche Bank SAP Open Tournament Players' Championship of Europe might suffer from the ultimate identity crisis but the two commodities that it assuredly does not lack are a huge purse and the aristocracy of European golf and beyond to play for it.

The tournament — is it the Deutsche Bank SAP Open or the TPC of Europe, or both? — would, if a human being, be liable to acute schizophrenia. Be that as it may, the players are labouring under no misapprehension. They are competing for serious amounts of money and that is quite good enough for them.

The prize fund to be contested over the next four days is, at £1.1 million, surpassed in the regular European calendar by only two events. Deutsche Bank and SAP, who are putting up the money, would undoubtedly prefer their names to be at the top of the tournament.

There are, equally, those who would be quick to remind them that as the event is also the Tournament Players' Championship, it carries a five-year exemption on the European Tour. The winner on Monday will not need to worry about his playing card until 2003.

The clans have therefore gathered at Gut Kaden, an intriguingly lop-sided lay-out in which the front half, the newer nine, is flat and frankly not very interesting, but the old, more developed, inward half is a much better test with some mature trees and more clearly defined landing areas.

The field is led, of course, by Colin Montgomerie. When he is playing, the rest, no matter how distinguished, tend to melt somewhat into the middle distance. So, although

Nick Price and Mark O'Meara are visiting for the week from the United States and will compete alongside José María Olazábal, Leif Westwood, Thomas Björn, Bernhard Langer, Costantino Rocca, Severiano Ballesteros, Ian Woosnam, Andrew Coltart and Darren Clarke. Montgomerie remains the man to beat.

Also present this week is Jarmo Sandelin, which is not significant in itself but becomes so in the light of the long-distance dispute that rumbles on between the Swede and O'Meara. Sandelin is still claiming that O'Meara replaced a previously marked ball nearer the 15th hole in the final round of the Lancôme Trophy last September, a tournament in which the American beat Sandelin by one stroke.

O'Meara softened his previously defiant stance somewhat yesterday, admitting that on seeing the video of the incident he conceded that he possibly moved the ball forward, but defended himself stoutly. "Could I have made a mistake?" he said. "Absolutely, I could have. But try to bend the rules? Never."

Sandelin was having none of it. "The question is, should we have a player on tape breaking the rules and still keeping the trophy," he said. "Mark has been playing professional golf for 20 years, enough for a player to know right or wrong."

The affair might be over, more likely, it is not. O'Meara feels his honesty has been impugned, Sandelin feels cheated of justice.

They will not even have the chance to talk out their problems on the course today — O'Meara starts his first round at 8.20am, Sandelin at 3pm. It is probably just as well — pipes of peace are not on offer from either side.



Mark O'Meara has forsaken the US PGA Tour to compete at Gut Kaden in Germany for a £1.1 million prize fund

Ratcliffe relishing tough draw

By PATRICIA DAVIES

IT WILL be no fluke if Elaine Ratcliffe, a Curtis Cup player from Cheshire, manages to win the OCS English women's amateur championship for the first time at Walton Heath tomorrow. The 25-year-old, who led the qualifiers, is having to progress the hard way, battling past opponents of unquestioned calibre.

In the first round yesterday, she defeated Kate Burton, runner-up last year, by the comfortable margin of 5 and 4 and in the second round, Ratcliffe beat Jill Thornhill, the honour-festooned veteran who is a member here, on the 17th. This morning, in the quarter-finals, Ratcliffe faces Kim Rostron, the defending champion, who beat her England team-mate at the semi-final stage a year ago.

Rostron, whose caddie is her fiancé, Robert Andrew, was eight under par for her

two matches, against Lorna Nelson and Kirsty Taylor, a robust 19-year-old from Hampshire, who was three down after ten and could not reproduce the heroics — five birdies in six holes from the 11th — that helped her recover from a similar plight against Christine Watson.

Ratcliffe, four under par against Burton, who sported

leopard-spot fingernails and green suede shorts, was five under against the more conventionally attired Thornhill — and needed to be. In a game of real quality, Thornhill, one up after 12 holes, was undone by Ratcliffe's play at the par fives that exposed the 30-year gap in age.

Ratcliffe reached the 13th and 14th in two — having

outridden Thornhill by 100 yards at the latter — for winning birdies and threw in an eagle three at the 16th, where she hit a five-wood out of the rough to the green that had Thornhill and the spectators drooling.

Thornhill raised home hopes with her tee shot to five feet at the 150-yard 17th but missed the putt. "I just didn't believe the line," she said.

However, not only did Thornhill have the satisfaction of forcing Ratcliffe to play well but she was also responsible, indirectly, for her opponent's fine putting. Over the winter, Ratcliffe had worked hard with Harold Swash, the putting maestro, who was appointed to help the Curtis Cup squad on the advice of the chairman of the Ladies' Golf Union training committee — one Jill Thornhill.

SCORES FROM WALTON HEATH

FIRST ROUND: E Ratcliffe (Sandwich) 21; K Burton (St George's Hill) 5 and 4; J Thornhill (Walton Heath) 5; C Watson (Bromborough) 2 holes; K Taylor (Sandford) 2; C Watson (Bromborough) 2 and 2; K Rostron (Chesham) 1; L Nelson (Froton Park) 4 and 3; K Evans (Moor Park) 1; A Munry (Lancashire) 1; K Shillington (Walton Heath) 1; N Lunn (Fife) 1; F Swan (Grove) 5 and 4; C Rostron (Chesham) 1; K Knowles (Widenedown) 1; D Wilson (Tracy Park) 21; R Pridg (Bretton) 1; K Liscombe (Crescoper) 4 and 3; S Heath (Fellon) 2; K Smith (Warrington) 2; K Fisher (Royal Lytham) and S Annis 3; J Lamm (West Wilshire) 3 and 3; J Lamm (West Wilshire) 2; R Hudson (Bretton) 1 hole; S Naden (Woodmore Hall) 1 hole; S Coveley (Woodmore Hall) 2 holes; J Wilson (Chesham) 1; E Duggan (Milton) and M Norton 4 and 3. Second round: Ratcliffe 2 and 1; Burton 2 and 1; Rostron 2 and 2; Shillington 2 and 1; Taylor 4 and 3; Swash 1; Evans 1 hole; Court 2; Lunn 2; Knowles 2 holes; Heath 2 holes; Fisher 2; Lamm 3 and 4; Wilson 3 and 2.

ROWING

Britain in mood to take on world

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL IN MUNICH

CREWS from 32 nations are here this weekend to compete in the first of the three World Cup regattas. Germany and Great Britain, the 1997 champions and runners-up, head the European entries but the high-class line-up also includes entries from the United States, Brazil, Cuba and China.

Britain has 16 boats in the World Cup events and a further seven in non-World Cup classes, two of the latter being a high-class lightweight eight and quad, the former with four 1997 world silver medal-winners on board and the quad with the triple world champion, Peter Haining, in the line-up.

Britain's World Cup entries are spearheaded by three of the world champion coxless four. With Tim Foster injured, Steven Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell are joined by the former Croatia international, Luka Grubor, an Oxford Blue in 1997, who recently gained British citizenship.

With Andre Wilms absent from the sculls, Greg Scarle, Britain's world bronze medalist winner last year, will not have a chance to retest himself against the German, who took the 1997 silver and beat him twice in Duisburg a fortnight ago.

The women's sculls, in which Britain has two entries, promises to be interesting both domestically and internationally. Guin Batten, the Olympic and world finalist, has Katherine Grainger to worry about, as well as 14 foreign rivals.

Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop, almost certainly robbed of a 1997 world medal when they were struck down by illness at the last minute, showed their class when winning two gold medals in the coxless pairs in Duisburg. They are in the pairs again here and are also included in the women's eight.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Morley's ban upsets charge of Rhinos

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ADRIAN MORLEY, the Leeds Rhinos and Great Britain second row forward, will miss the leaders' JJB Super League game away to St Helens on Sunday. He was banned for one match and fined £250 by the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee yesterday for a high tackle in the win against Sheffield Eagles last week.

There is compensation for Leeds in the availability of Marc Glanville in the back row following his recovery from concussion. Should Leeds win against St Helens, who have controversially favoured Sean Long ahead of Bobbie Goulding at scrum half, they will equal their best start since winning their first eight league matches of the 1982-83 season.

Although St Helens officials have blamed groin and ankle injuries for Goulding's absence, the player has said that he is fit, increasing speculation about his future at the club. Hull Sharks were linked with Goulding last week following a long-term injury to Glen Tomlinson, their Australian scrum half.

Hull eased their player shortage yesterday when they took Steve Barrow, a young prop forward, on loan from Wigan Warriors and included him on the bench for Sunday's home game against Wigan Warriors. Wigan have Daryl Cardiss deputising at scrum half for Tony Smith, who is out for at least two weeks with a knee injury.

Bradford Bulls are unchanged for their home match tonight against London Broncos. Following their demolition of Castleford Tigers, in which the Bulls' half backs, Shaun Edwards and Robbie Paul, shared five tries in their increasingly-productive partnership, Edwards said: "I enjoyed playing alongside Henry Paul at Wigan. Now the pairing with my brother is reaping rewards."

Ferrari advertisement featuring a car image, the text 'AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION WIN A FERRARI', and a detailed entry form for the Fantasy Formula One 24-hour race. The form includes sections for drivers, constructors, and contact information, along with a 'MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW' instruction.



JET SPORT 48
Pickard making waves in the world of aquabike racing

SPORT

CRICKET 52
Cowan steers Essex into semi-finals of Benson and Hedges Cup



FRIDAY MAY 29 1998

Decisive Hoddle sends injured Arsenal striker home to leave path clear for Owen

Sad Wright bows out of World Cup

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN CASABLANCA

THERE is a particularly keen sense of sadness about the fall of a showman. If his successes are exaggerated by his exuberance, so his failures are exacerbated by the transparency of his emotions. It felt like that with Ian Wright yesterday when he was sent home from England's training base in La Manga and told his chances of playing in the World Cup finals were over.

It was a night here that ended his dream of appearing on football's grandest stage and ending his spectacular career with the international acclaim that has always eluded him. He pulled a hamstring in the 24th minute of England's 1-0 victory over Morocco on Wednesday evening and, when the England medical team examined the injury on their return to Spain, they confirmed what everybody had begun to fear and what Wright had been dreading.

An official statement said that Wright's injury would take two weeks to heal and that there was therefore no chance of him regaining his fitness before the opening game for England against Tunisia on June 15. There had been suggestions that Eileen Drewery, the faith healer so trusted by Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, and by Wright might be flown to Spain to try to work her magic, but it seems that not even she could help this time.

"Ian Wright is out of the World Cup," the England statement said. "He was fully examined today and it became clear that the injury will need a two-week recovery period. He has got a hamstring injury in the same leg as his long-term groin injury and he will travel home from La Manga shortly."

The announcement effectively brings down the curtain on an international career that brought Wright 30 caps and nine goals. His was often a cameo role in the national side and, although Hoddle was keen to include him in the squad because of the positive effect on morale wrought by his effervescent, irrepressible nature, the blow is more personal than collective.

His finest hour for his country was indicative of his career at that level, four goals in a game against San Marino that meant nothing. More often, it was dominated by crushing disappointments and rejections by Graham Taylor and Terry Venables for successive European championships, but he never quite made it with England.

The reality is that Wright, 34, had ceased to be a central figure in Hoddle's plans and was no longer even the first reserve if the partnership between Alan Shearer and Teddy Sheringham was disrupted by injury or loss of form. That role has passed to Michael Owen, who seems to have everything that Wright once had — and more. His emergence made Wright dispensable.

Hoddle is likely to offer Wright the chance to travel to France with the squad as a reward for his efforts and a device to boost team spirit, but the England coach was ruthlessly decisive in his actions yesterday when the extent of the damage to the Arsenal striker became apparent.

"I am very, very disappointed," Hoddle said. "Ian has made a gallant effort to make the squad for the World Cup, but he has had the most wretched bad luck. It just wasn't to be."

Wright was dignified in his disappointment. "No manager has shown greater faith in me than Glenn Hoddle," he said. "Above all, I am so disappointed because I think England can go a very long way in the World Cup and I wanted so much to be part of that with the boys. I can tell them all that they will not have a bigger supporter either in France or at home than me."

Wright had only just fought his way back into the reckoning after struggling with a succession of injuries since January and missing the majority of the record-breaking run of ten successive wins that took Arsenal to the FA Cup Premiership title. His absence cost the number of players competing for the final squad of 22, which will be announced on Monday, down to 28, because Jamie Redknapp was also forced to pull out because of injury before the squad left for Spain.

It now seems almost certain that Hoddle will take either Dion Dublin or Les Ferdinand in the last of the striking spots that had been Wright's for the taking. Dublin may be just ahead, but Ferdinand could be given a last chance to stake his claim when England play Belgium tonight in the King Hassan II tournament.

Even as Wright was boarding the plane home, though, a fierce debate was raging over the man who had already supplanted him. Owen became the youngest player ever to score for England when he struck the winner against Morocco and, on form alone, he is the man who the majority feel should partner Shearer when the World Cup campaign opens.

Yet Hoddle has made it clear that he sees Owen as the perfect substitute and that he will persevere with Teddy Sheringham, the man who seems to bring the best out of Shearer, in the starting XI.

With Owen on a hot streak and so evidently the symbol of a bright future, that is bound to cause a rising tide of indignation that will quickly swamp the wave of sympathy for Wright.

ENGLAND vs Tunisia, possible 3-5-21: D Shearer (Aston Villa), G Neville (Manchester United), A Adenrele (Aston Villa), G Southgate (Aston Villa), M Marston (Middlesbrough), D Beckham (Manchester United), P Ince (Liverpool), D Batty (Newcastle United), P Neville (Manchester United), A Shearer (Newcastle United).

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An injured Wright limps to the dressing-room in Casablanca, knowing that his World Cup place is in jeopardy

Showman relegated to role of bit-part player

By MATT DICKINSON

IAN WRIGHT hopes his next venture outside football will be in the movies. It will be a fitting career for a man who has always appeared to be living out an unlikely, and melodramatic, script — this season more than ever.

It all started so well for the England forward, who began with the immediate priority of overtaking Cliff Bastin's goalscoring record for Arsenal. He did it six games into the season, a hat-trick against Bolton Wanderers at Highbury taking him past 178 goals.

It should have been the start of a prolific year. However, there are those, and they include Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, who believe that in breaking the record, Wright lost his momentum.

Wright went six League games without scoring, a drought by his own high standards, and although he produced a brave display as a lone striker in the draw in Rotherham on England clinched World Cup qualification, he appeared to be labouring.

Part of the problem may have been down to a ligament injury in his knee that curtailed his season. As Arsenal began the run that was to lead to the Double, Wright was a frustrated observer, playing just 22 minutes of football in February and not at all in March and April as groin problems lengthened his enforced break.

He returned amid much fanfare as a substitute in the 4-0 victory against Everton at Highbury that clinched the FA Cup Premiership title, but he was forced to sit on the bench for the entire FA Cup Final at Wembley as Nicolas Anelka demonstrated that he was no longer the apprentice. At 34, Wright had been reduced to a bit-part player.

The news yesterday confirmed that his body is struggling under the strain and Wright, whose principal asset has always been his pace, will start next season as second choice. No wonder he is hosting chat shows and preparing for Hollywood.

Hoddle baffles me says bitter Le Tissier

MATT LE TISSIER yesterday accused Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, of unfairly excluding him from the World Cup and said: "I don't know what goes on in his head."

The Southampton player believes his penalty-taking record alone would have been enough to clinch a place in the squad, apart from his skill at set pieces, passing ability and scoring record. He said: "You would have thought that they would have wanted someone who could take penalties." Le Tissier, 29, has made only two starts for England in a career dating back to the Graham Taylor regime. He was furious that Hoddle picked Darren Anderton and Jamie Redknapp, who had both been injured, ahead of him for the pre-World Cup squad.

"I have been on top form at the end of the season. You only have to look at my record, ten goals in ten games. I don't think I have been given a fair chance to prove myself because two starts is not enough."

Le Tissier said he was "baffled" by Hoddle's decision to pick Anderton and Redknapp over him. He said he had been in excellent form and had scored ten goals in ten games. He said he did not think he had been given a fair chance to prove himself because two starts is not enough.

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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD
No 1418
ACROSS
1 Pattern, artistic theme (5)
4 Element Ga (7)
5 One championing cause, idea (9)
9 Felt cloth; go silently (3)
10 Tiny mark; very prompt, on it (3)
11 Artificial (substances) (9)
12 Arctic jacket (5)
13 Drive out (5)
16 Touring coach (9)
18 Decay (3)
20 Temporary craze (3)
21 Convulsed (9)
22 Argue; struggle (7)
23 Great fear (5)
DOWN
1 Scooter; was in dumps (5)
2 Pig's foot (7)
3 False-confidence state (5,8)
4 Graham — Brighton Rock author (6)
5 One home from school to empty house (8,5)
6 Data entered (in computer) (5)
7 Physical exam (7)
12 The largest ocean (7)
14 Have share in (7)
15 Not taken advantage of (6)
17 Lindsafarne saint; sounds like Yemen capital (5)
19 A river; a thick cloth (5)

Chairmen given all-round view

WHILE the more mundane practicalities of the Annual General Meeting occupied the FA Cup Premiership clubs yesterday, events this afternoon will make the headlines. Plans to screen top flight football on pay-per-view television will be discussed at the meeting of the elite clubs, with — apparently — some intensity.

The Premiership chairmen will hear, at a Midlands country hotel, a report from a committee headed by Peter Leaver, the Premier League chief executive, which has considered pay-per-view for the past two months.

Leaver has been involved in negotiations with BSkyB over rights to screen matches in addition to their present contract, which entitles the satellite television company to broadcast 60 live games a season on its subscription channels. BSkyB has offered several proposals, based around a plan to screen certain matches at a pay-per-view fee of about £10. Sky is keen to emphasise that it will continue for the next three years — the length of its contract with the Premiership — to screen the big games on its subscription channels. But it has outlined several proposals that could eventually extend football coverage to virtually every match in the Premiership.

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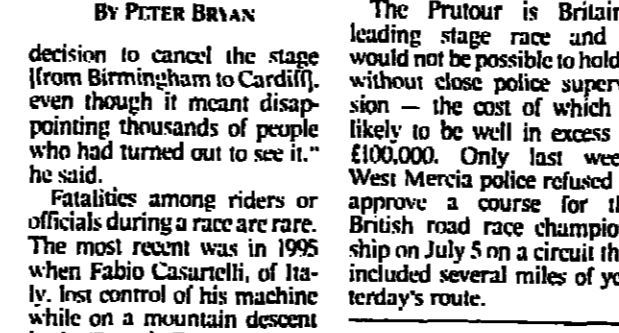
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Riders back cancellation

AFTER yesterday's tragedy, the riders in the Prutour, which finishes in the City of London on Sunday, will take to the road today for the sixth stage, one of 91 miles from Bristol to Reading, knowing that the future of the event is secure for the next three years.

Chris Boardman summed up the competitors' feelings about the death yesterday of one of the police marshals in an accident. "The riders are devastated and support the decision to cancel the stage (from Birmingham to Cardiff), even though it meant disappointing thousands of people who had turned out to see it," he said.

The one and only DANNY BAKER



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Return of the Witches
Labo
Pakistan to arm missiles
Court drama
Goldwater dies
Gaza injured
WEATHER
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FAITH

هكذا من الاصل